FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

FSR

Vol. 20, No. 3, 1974 50p

OUR ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF UFOs IN

# AN ARABIAN NIGHT

See page 12

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW
fsr

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Vol. 20, No. 3
(published December 1974)

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# HYNEK JOINS FSR

WE are delighted to avail ourselves of this opportunity, in an Editorial leader,of announcing that Dr. J. Allen Hynek has joined the FSR team as a consultant.

Professor of astronomy at Northwestern University, Dr. Hynek is also Director of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center, and was the scientist who was responsible for the design and construction of the United States satellite tracking system. For twenty years he was civilian scientific consultant to the United States Air Force Project Blue Book on questions relating to UFOs.

At a time when it seemed safe to assume that the long-awaited Condon Report would be couched in such terms that the U.S. Air Force would be able to close Blue Book, and so shed responsibility for examining the persistent and tiresome UFO reports, Dr. Hynek made one of his frequent visits to Britain. The year was 1968, and in view of the uncertain future of Project Blue Book, the Editor told him that he would be sure of a great welcome if ever he felt free to join the small panel of FSR consultants.

We were aware that at that time it would be impossible for him to do so, and Blue Book did in fact continue until the end of 1969, although Dr. Hynek left it in the summer of that year.

Since then, in addition to his many professional duties, Dr. Hynek has been busy writing: *The UFO Experience* has already made an impact, and this will spread as more and more people find an interest in the subject. Now, a new book, written in conjunction with Dr. Jacques Vallée, is on the stocks. In addition to all this Dr. Hynek has found time to launch his institute, the Center for UFO Studies.

With these achievements behind him he has chosen this moment to recall that conversation of six years ago, and to give his blessing to what we were proud to hear him call, when he visited us in September this year: "The best UFO magazine in the World."

At a time when we are counter-attacking the effects of the harassments we have experienced during the last three or four years, it is a great boost to our efforts to receive the public support of a man we once described as a "Courageous Pioneer."

Courageous man indeed, for Dr. Hynek was the butt of much hasty and ill-informed criticism in the past. During the twenty years of his consultancy to Blue Book his original scepticism died when, after the first few years, he began to realise the implications of the reports he was studying. He then found himself in a difficult position: he did not wish to be "fired" from his post as he had access to most of the significant reports that found their way to the Air Force. So he quietly and carefully stuck to his guns, and did not behave like a bull in a china shop in the manner some people would apparently have him

behave. Now, thanks to J. Allen Hynek, the world knows how things really were at Project Blue Book, how cases were investigated and how their merits were assessed. More to the point, he has come away with a store of valuable knowledge.

This knowledge will stand his newly-launched Center for UFO Studies in good stead, and *Flying Saucer Review* will be happy to collaborate in every way possible with this new Institute.

We know our readers will join with us in extending a warm welcome to our new consultant. Our fervent hope is that our joint efforts will help to advance human knowledge, and so help in our endeavours, or the endeavours of those who come after us, to establish the truth about the enigmatic UFOs.

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# SPANISH UFO FIESTA

*Eileen Buckle*

UFOLOGICALLY speaking, Spain has been quite lively again this year, and it looks as though last winter's flap in France has spilled over the Pyrenees. UFOs have been appearing there so frequently, that local UFO groups must have been having quite a feast. One of our most faithful correspondents in Spain, Sr. R.B. Guérard y Holmes, sent us newspaper articles, as they came out, together with excellent translations. In some cases he was able to contact witnesses and obtain more information by correspondence. Things became very lively in mid-March, and a selection of some of the more interesting reports is given here.

### In a garden in Gerena

Perhaps the UFO denizens, wherever they come from, enjoy their trips to our world. Some of the Spanish witnesses, however, did not exactly enjoy the experience of their presence. Antonia Díaz Ramos, a resident of Gerena, Seville Province, was one. The story of a UFO-landing in her back yard was reported in the Madrid *ABC* of March 20. The lady, it was said, belonged to a well-known and respected family in the town; she is married and is the mother of two children. In her own words...

"As always, I was cleaning up in the kitchen, and everyone except my father was already in bed. A very strong light that left me momentarily blinded, entered the house through the window that overlooks the yard. Immediately thereafter, and followed by a series of deafening high-pitched squeaking sounds, I saw a strange contrivance, already in the yard, at window level. Due to the smallness of the yard, I calculated that the strange device was approximately four metres distance from where I was standing and about one metre off the ground."

The witness described the contrivance as being egg-shaped, some two metres long by approximately one metre in width, shooting forth a bright, twinkling reddish colour with a transparent white centre. She said, "In spite of the fact that it dazzled me, I was able to observe two black, bulky objects inside the device, which were clearly discernible."

She said the sight lasted for some minutes, during which time the contrivance manoeuvred in different directions, then rose and quickly disappeared. Antonia's husband, Manuel Valderas Fuentes, hearing her screams, ran to her aid. When he reached his horror-stricken wife, the object had disappeared. Although he states he does not believe in UFOs, he was certain something highly unusual had happened to Antonia.

### Tarragona "Train"

Another unnerving experience befell seven people from Almosa while they were in a field in Tarragona, on April 2. They were two married couples, Sr. Paulino Torner (a tool sharpener) and his wife Josefina Gisbert, and Sr. Bartolomé Rubio (a brick mason) and his wife Francisca Bonaguera, and the three children of the first mentioned couple. One of them described what happened for the Madrid *ABC* of April 3:

"We heard a very loud noise, like that of a train travelling at great speed, and we were very surprised because the railroad is a long way off. Then we saw something heading directly for us and travelling at very high speed; it stopped in its tracks, so to speak, but continued to spin. It was very near us. Then immediately afterwards it turned and went away. I thought it was going to land on top of us all. I pushed the children and yelled to everyone to hit the ground. It neither gave off sparks, nor smoke,

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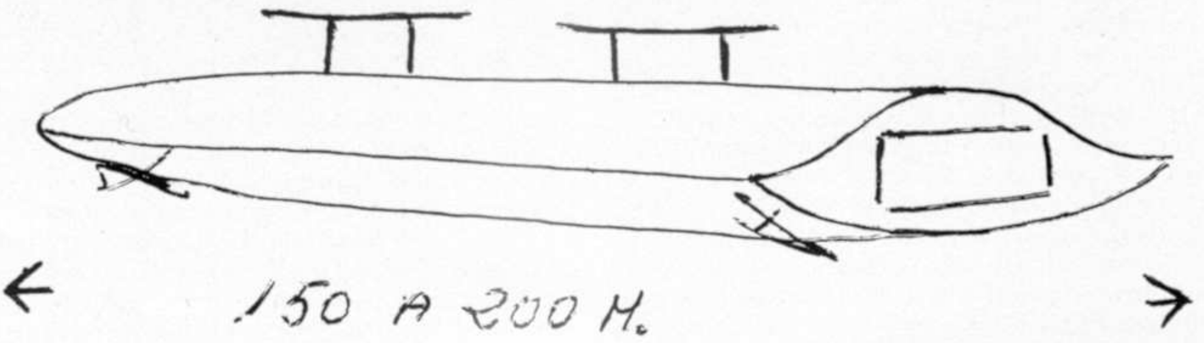
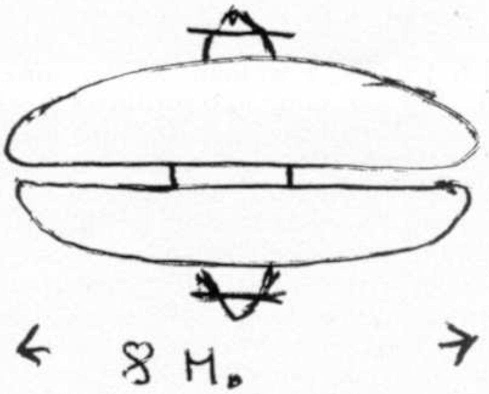



Above: Sr. Sanchez's drawing of a huge air ship he claims to have sighted
Left: One of the small craft said to have entered the larger one




nor any light at all. But it did give off a tremendous noise, a whistling sound, just like the jet planes when flying low. The olive trees bowed under the blast, as when there is a strong wind, lifting leaves and branches from the ground like a whirlwind. It was of an earthy colour, about 70 or 80 centimetres in diameter, round like a plate with another plate on top of it but upside down."

### Salesman's encounter

A pocketbook salesman, Adrian Sánchez Sánchez, also got a fright, and this is how he described his experience in the vicinity of the township of Castillo de las Guardas, Province of Seville, in a letter to Sr. Guérard:

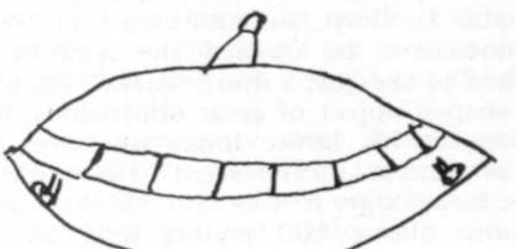
"On March 20, between 11.00 and 11.15 a.m., as I was making the rounds of my customers, I saw an object fall from the sky. I couldn't tell what it was but thought that it might be an aeroplane crashing to the ground. I ran to help the possible victims and found an airship of gigantic proportions, which I calculate to have measured between 150 and 200 metres long. I was surprised but not frightened and did not realise at that moment what I had actually seen. I noticed how a large door opened in the tail end of the ship and how a formation of three smaller ships, in the shape of yo-yos, approximately 8 metres long, proceded to enter the larger one; but the last one turned and came slowly towards me. At this, I turned on my heels and ran quickly to my car and drove off, and was followed by this smaller ship, at intervals, for a distance of 15 kilometres. It then disappeared at an extremely high speed without making any sound at all. These ships were of a colour that looked like aluminium, gave off no lights or noises, and this is about all I can tell you, except that, just seeing it quickly and under these conditions, I did not notice anything that appeared to be windows or openings that might serve as doors."

Sr. Guérard points out that the witness reported the incident to the "Guardia Civil," and no man with a good business reputation and a family would dare make fools of this branch of the Spanish Police.

### Near-landing at Jerez de la Frontera

Numerous residents of Jerez de la Frontera, Cadiz, saw a strange craft on March 27. One who reported it to the authorities was a 13-year-old boy, Pedro Jiménez Aguilar. In response to Sr. Guérard's request, he wrote out a full description of what occurred:

"Some friends and I were playing on the hills behind the residential area called Santo Tomás de Aquino (Jerez de la Frontera), in front of my own housing estate, around 8.30 p.m., when suddenly I saw a phenomenon so strange that at first I was frightened, but when I had controlled myself I was able to enjoy the sight. It was then that I realized




Jiminez Aguilar's drawing (fig. 1)

that it was neither an aeroplane nor a helicopter but something I had never seen before. The drawing shows more or less what it was like. *(see Fig. 1).*

"On the top I saw very strong green and amber lights which seemed to give off a blinking effect. in the centre there were some things which looked like windows, with red, revolving lights.

"This strange apparatus remained about 2 metres off the ground for approximately ten minutes. At one moment it turned off all its lights and elevated itself. From below I could see that it looked something like this (*see Fig. 2)*.

**Jiminez Aguilar's drawing (fig. 2)**

"It turned out its lights once more and began moving from side to side until it finally disappeared from view."

### Vigo UFO turns on the heat

The Madrid *ABC* of March 30 reported how an enormous UFO appeared over Vigo, coinciding with the annual Fiesta of the Reconquest, held on March 28 every year, celebrating the expulsion of the French invaders in the year 1809. The principal role in this case fell to an extremely well known, popular and highly esteemed resident of Vigo, Sr. Juan Minguela Dominguez, owner of a beauty salon in the city.

Sr. Minguela's house is several kilometres outside the city, on the coast of la Guardia. He awakened that night in a terrible, unbearable heat, and his three hunting dogs were howling desperately. As he was unable to sleep, and thinking there might be a fire somewhere, he opened the window and was astonished to see, just a short distance from his house an egg-shaped object of great dimensions. It was not far away, as his house looks out over the coast and was almost incandescent. He could not say exactly how large it was but thinks that it may have been about 100 metres long by some 30 metres wide. It gave off enormous sparkling flashes. It was situated just a few metres over the surface of the sea and part of the coastline, as though it were floating in the air. The reflections that came from it were extraordinarily bright.

Sr. Minguela, who was terrified, picked up his shotgun immediately, thinking that someone was attacking him, and when he noticed that the strange object was nearing the house, he hid inside a cupboard. But then, according to his story, as he was unable to bear being locked up inside the closet, he came out and approached the window again. He does not recall how long he was at the window, from which he could see how the UFO smoothly gained height, soon to disappear at enormous speed. The dogs continued howling in a state of real terror. Quite naturally, Sr. Minguela could not sleep the rest of the night. The following morning when he tried to take his dogs out, they refused to budge and were trembling with their eyes popping out of their sockets. It took him a long time to quieten them down.

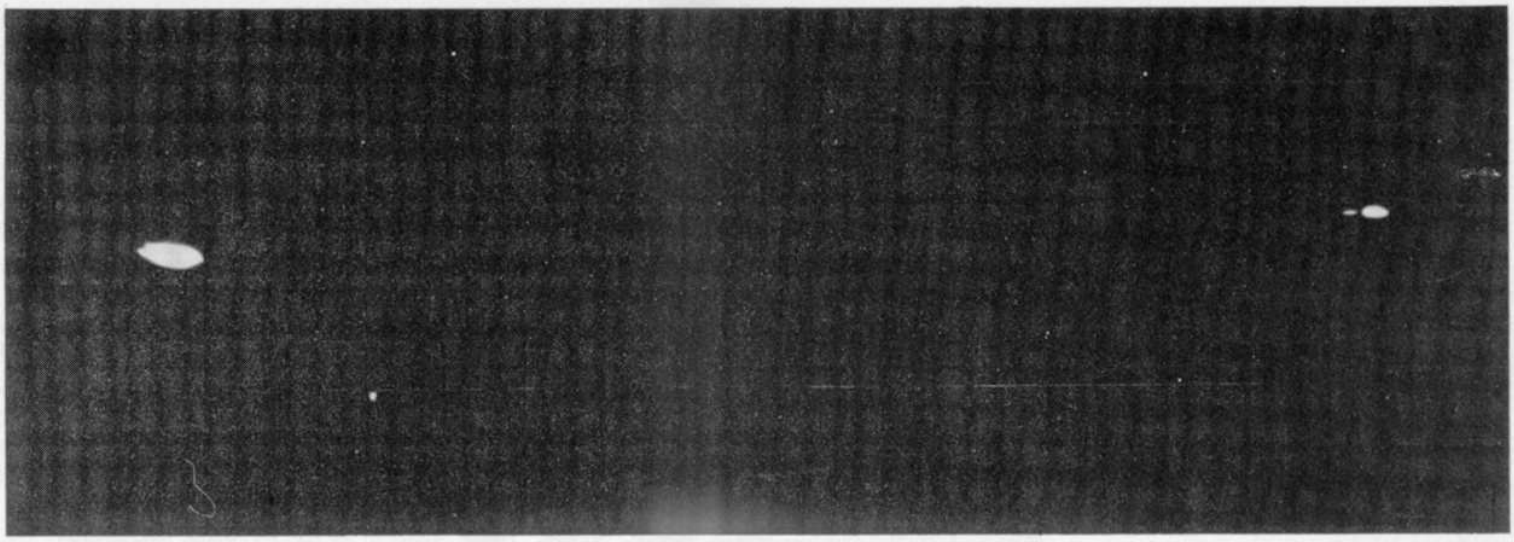
Another person, a woman, at the same hour, i.e. 3.00 a.m., felt the same extraordinary heat that had affected Juan Minguela. The story was widely told all over the town of Vigo and much commented upon due to the serious nature of the witness, Minguela, who didn't rapidly overcome his terrible fright.

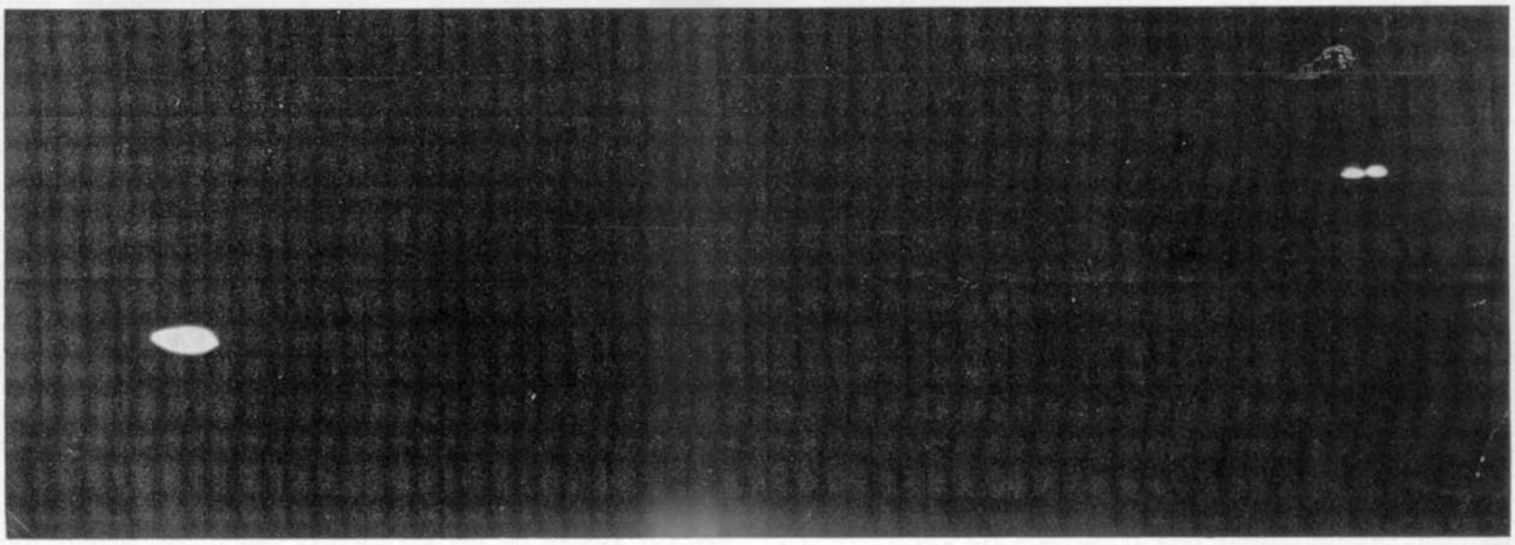
At Malaga, a large, brightly shining, spindle-shaped object which remained stationary in the air, was seen by numerous people on March 27, and photographed by the picture editor of the newspaper *Sur.* The following morning, Srs. Juan Manuel Rey Bautista, Jose Garcia Olea, Jose Luis Moreno and Antonio Martin saw a mysterious object on the horizon. They said that it was very bright and looked like a disc. A smaller one came out of this big one, and after about half a minute, they disappeared. That same day, a radiosonic weather balloon was discovered on a farm at the town of Alahuil de la Torre, which is in the Malaga area. The conclusion not surprisingly drawn by the Madrid *ABC* was that the "UFO" had been "captured." This *might* account for the reports from the Malaga area, but it could not account for the other cases described above. Could it be that weather balloons turn up a *little* too conveniently, when there is a UFO flap?

### Humanoids reported

An incident experienced by a young lorry driver in Salamanca could in no way be attributed to a weather balloon. The newspaper *La Gaceta Regional* of March 29 published an interview with the young man, Maximiliano Inglesias, aged 21, who, it was said, has a reputation in his home town of Legunilla as being a sober person...

"Several days ago, when he was returning to Legunilla at 2.00 a.m., at a point near Valdehijaderos and next to Bejar, he was dazzled by a very strong light, which he thought came from another lorry. So he dipped his headlamps to allow the on-coming lorry to pass safely. But then he noticed a strange, stationary object on the road just ahead of him about 200 metres distance away, which he described as looking like a 'saucer placed on top of a plate, which was larger than the saucer and round', and that he saw another, similar, stationary object in the air about 15 or 20 metres away from where he was.





**The above photographs were obtained by Sr. Salas, the picture editor for the newspaper *Sur,* at Malaga on March 27, a chain of objects is caught by the camera, although only a single spindle-shaped object was reported as being seen.**

Two beings alighted from the one that was parked on the road and one of them pointed towards the lorry. They then returned to the apparatus and it took off, leaving the other object still motionless in mid-air. The lorry didn't start up until sometime afterwards. When he got home, the young man went to bed thoroughly frightened, and said nothing to anyone the following day.

"That same day he had to return by the same road, carrying material in his lorry. It was on this trip home to Legunilla, about 11.30 p.m. and at the same spot as the previous night, that he met up with three objects parked in the road. They were silvery coloured with a sort of diffuse luminosity. 'I switched off the ignition,' he said, 'because the lorry refused to go. I got out of the cabin and saw four figures outside the objects, but I cannot say for sure whether they were already there or if they had just alighted from the objects, and I don't know whether they were male or female either. They came towards me and I ran away frightened. I struck off across the field running towards Horcajo, and they were right behind me, running faster than I could. I was exhausted and hid in a ditch full of mud. They passed within about two metres of my hiding place but didn't see me, but I saw them go by. They were very tall (about two metres) and had arms and legs, but I didn't see their faces. I didn't hear any voices at all. When I saw them disappear into the distance, I returned to my lorry. I remembered that I had left the door open and now it was closed. Thinking one of them might be inside, I drew near slowly and peeped in, but didn't see anyone. I don't recall if the weather was hot or cold out there; you may imagine how I felt!

" 'Then I saw them once more, from a distance, and they looked at me again. They made signals with their arms and got inside the three objects. Later on, I could see how they got out again with some sort of tools in their hands, which I couldn't make out very clearly, and began making holes in the ground. Finally, they went away. I couldn't start up the lorry as the battery was dead.'

"The following day, he told this story to the

police and the Civil Guard began an investigation. Precisely at the spot where it all took place, they found a hole in the ground, which the lorry driver said he had not made. 'Everything I have said is true and anyone who wants to believe me may do so, and those who don't want to are free not to. I had no prior knowledge of such things as these. I don't remember too many details but I do recall that when they took off, I heard a very strong sound, a sort of powerful whistling that left me momentarily deaf. Now I am recovered from it all and have just one thing to say:— If on that second night, instead of being alone I had had someone with me who had not been afraid, then I wouldn't have run away. I'd have remained to see what would have happened.' "

### At Cuenca, and near Torrelaguna

During May, two further reports were received. The daily paper *Informaciones* of May 9 described how a UFO was spotted near the city of Cuenca (half-way between Madrid and the Mediterranean coast) by three people who were motoring towards Madrid. The sighting took place just a little before 7.00 a.m. near a place called Alto de Cabrejas. The witnesses were Sr. Amadeo Villar Garrote, an industrialist from Cuenca, his daughter and chauffeur. All three of them saw a strange, oval-shaped object which gave off reddish lights while hovering over their car in a spinning fashion for about 40 seconds, after which it rose into the air and disappeared into the distance.

On May 11, at 8.10 p.m., Sr. Esteban Alfonso Martinez and his family saw a bright, cigar-shaped object in the sky, about double the size of a Jumbo aircraft. They had been motoring towards Madrid, and the sighting took place when they had reached the crossroads between the towns of Talamanca del Jarama and Torrelaguna. The object was stationary at a height of some 700 to 1,000 metres from the ground, but at an unknown distance from where they were. When Sr. Alfonso stopped the car, the object was hidden from sight by the trees on the side of the road. When he continued on in an effort to get a good look at it, the mysterious phenomenon had already disappeared from view. However, while he was busy looking for a place to park in an effort to get a better look at it, his wife and children saw another object, some 50 times smaller and shaped like a child's spinning top which manoeuvred to enter the larger object. This second object appeared to have some sort of elevation or fin attached to its superstructure towards the tail end.

### UFO and occupants near Medellin

The month of June produced yet another "creatures" case. It was published in the Madrid evening paper *Pueblo* of June 22, written by a journalist by name of J.M. Amilibia. Sr. Guerard adds that Sr. Amilibia specialises in reporting on UFO sightings for *Pueblo*, and seems honest and sincere. He also wrote to the witness, but did not expect a reply, since he is a simple peasant and may not be able to write. This was the newspaper report:

"Santiago Pulido Romero, 46, married, the father of six children, born in and a resident of Medellin (Badajoz), a sunburned and weather-beaten outdoorsman, is the witness in a fantastic story, which he willingly tells to both sceptics and believers alike. Santiago isn't bothered by public derision, and if you tell him he's crazy, he doesn't mind. He really doesn't care, because he himself would have laughed just a few days ago if someone else had told him the same story that he now tells.

He told me his story on the spot where it took place. In front of us, we can see the Castle of Medellin, on top of a meseta, an important landmark in our history, where Calderon de la Barca wrote his famous work 'Life is but a Dream.' We are now in a clay-coloured field; to our right is a clump of trees.

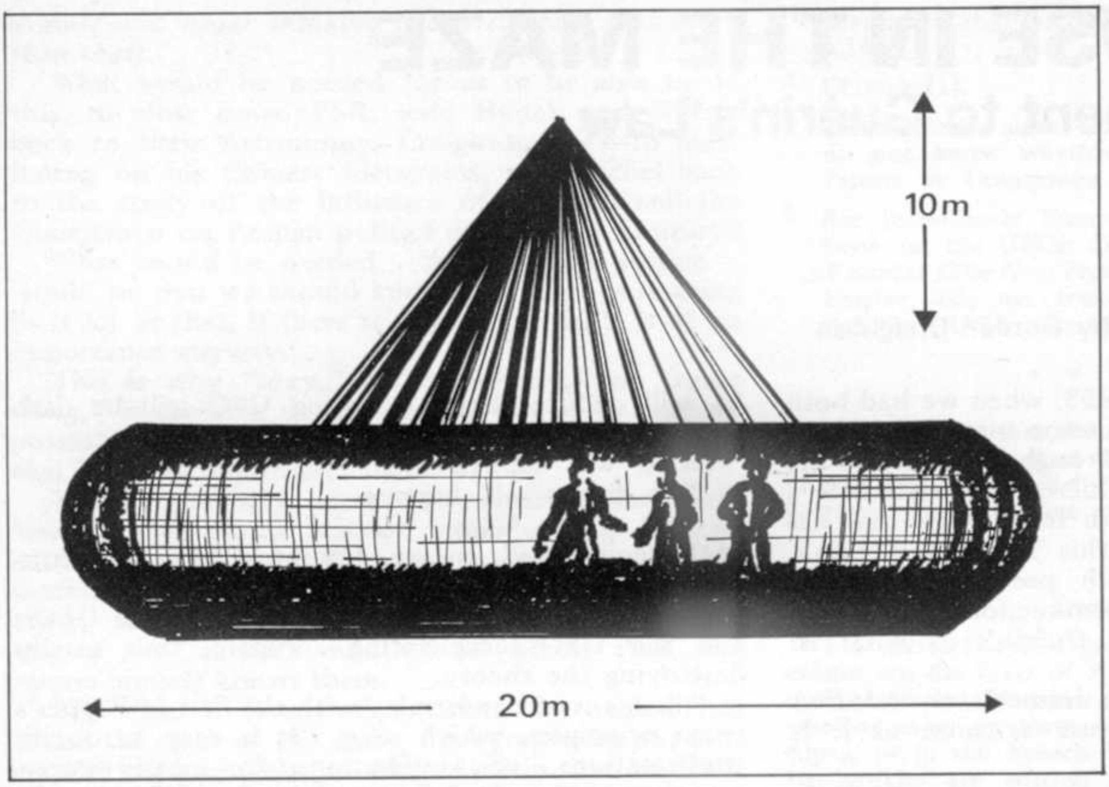
"The affair took place at 5.30 a.m. on June 14, 1974, and according to Santiago, this simple man who is completely balanced, and would seem incapable of such invention, says: 'That morning (it was still dark), I was going to my father's farm, and on passing that clump of trees, I was hit in the eyes by a strong light. I saw a funny-looking contraption flying at a low level, some 100 metres above the ground, I suppose. It was travelling at an unbelievable speed, as fast as my sight could follow it. It was on one side of the castle, and as it seemed to be coming towards me. I became so frightened that I thought that I'd jump out of my skin. Then I switched off my car lights and continued on in second gear, going very slow. I was shaking all over. Listen! You just can't imagine what a tremendous impression a thing like that makes on a man! I'd just like to see another man in my shoes at a time like that to see how he'd act! The thing is that this apparatus followed me for about 70 metres on my right, and when I got to that hill over there, I switched the lights of my car back on, and the apparatus came towards me again at very high speed but only to fade off when I turned out the lights. I got to the farm and noticed that it stayed near the door, about 100 metres off the ground, moving upwards and downwards at times. My first thought was to lock myself up in the house, and I did just this. Then, after having recovered a bit, I came out with a pitchfork in hand, just in case...you can imagine how frightened I was; so much so, in fact, that I was thinking of taking to the mountains where I know a few good spots to hide out...'

"He still shows the remains of that panic on his countenance. Santiago speaks perfectly clearly, telling us what he saw, step by step. At times, he shakes with emotion as the chill of fear reminds him of the experience...

" 'When I came out of the house, it was standing still over the farm. The light it gave off was so intense that it looked like daytime. It was precisely then that I got the idea of focusing my headlights on it in order to see what was going on. Then the thing headed for me like a bat out of hell; I turned out the lights again and it stayed quiet for a moment and then began to move up and down.'

" 'How did the apparatus move?' I asked him.

" 'At very high speed and spinning in the same




**The object seen at Medellin, as described by Sr. Santiago Pulido**

spot, although at times, it zigzagged or remained still, or swayed like a pendulum of a clock. For a moment it would look like a star, and then, in the next moment, it was right there beside me. At times it seemed to me to move like a whirlwind, you know what I mean? – like an incredible maelstrom...Well, it's just that I haven't the ability to explain it; words fail me!'

"What shape was it?'

" 'Round on the bottom and with a sort of cone-shaped tower on top. The round part was transparent and a great yellow light came from inside it. The tower shone and looked like a metal structure.'

"You say it was transparent. Did you see anything inside when it drew near to you?'

" 'Yes. I could see three men clearly. Three very tall men, more than two metres tall, who seemed to be holding on to some sort of control levers, and they were wearing some sort of helmets on their heads. They were standing up. Listen, man, this was really something to see!'

"How big do you think the thing was?'

" 'The round part was about 20 metres in diameter; the tower, about 10 metres high.'

"Did it make any special kind of sound?'

" 'No. It moved in complete silence.'

"How long did you observe it from the farm?'

" 'Well, I'd say until the sun began to go down, around sevenish. It was then that it headed off towards Villaneuva at a tremendous speed. When my children arrived at the farm, I was still pallid, as white as a ghost...If I live to be a thousand, I'll never forget that experience! Never, never, never. I swear that it was a terrible thing. You and all the rest can believe me or not, it's all the same to me. I know it is true and that's all that matters. I was always very sceptical about such things; I used to think that they were the inventions of idlers and dreamers, just a lot of nonsense. But now I know that there's something to it.'

"What do you think it is?'

" 'Beings from other worlds. What I saw, that apparatus thing, is not from this world because there cannot be anything even similar. Well, at least, this is what I believe...because I never saw the likes of such.'

"What was the closest you came to it?'

" 'About 50 metres. It was awful, simply frightening. And so silent and so brilliant. Now I've stopped going out of the house in the early hours of the morning. Now I wait for the sun to come out before going to the farm.'

"This is the testimony of Santiago Pulido. But then there were others from Medellin who also saw it. For example, there was a young boy, going to Medellin from La Oliva, who saw it from the road, as well as two residents of San Benito. They also say that two traffic policemen from Medellin told their families that they had seen it too. At any rate, it is a testimony worth investigating. One more story to add to all of the others..."

**Closing Shot...**

Finally, I have just received a report from the Madrid newspaper *Ya* of July 11. It says that on July 10, between 9.30 and 5.30 p.m., in the province of Leon, a UFO was seen in the Bierzo region. It was in the shape of a half-orange and gave off variegated, sparkling beams of light as it travelled in a north-westerly direction, sometimes at moderate speed and other times extremely fast. First it looked yellowish, and then seemed to change to an orange colour. Sr. Guérard is hoping to obtain more information on this one, and following his return from holidays in September, he says he will continue his investigations into the Vigo sightings and other matters.

# THE MOUSE IN THE MAZE

## Or my amendment to Guérin's Law

*Aimé Michel*

**Translation from the French by Gordon Creighton**

AROUND about 1957 or 1958, when we had both been seeking for years for some sort of Ariadne's thread that could guide us through the maze of the UFO Wave of 1954, Pierre Guérin formulated, as a first step, the only law known to Ufology that has proved resistant to Time. This law has, I think, theoretical implications which provide an insight into the nature of the UFO phenomenon.

Let us begin by stating Guérin's Law. It is:

> **"In Ufology, any law is immediately falsified by subsequent sightings just as soon as it is formulated."**

The word "falsified" is taken here in the Popperian sense: in Popper's terminology a theory is falsified when one can set over against it a fact which is not authorized by that theory. "Every good theory is a prohibition: it forbids certain things to happen. The more a theory forbids, the better it is."[1]

I shall not examine any of these "laws that are immediately falsified as soon as they are formulated," for I should be taken to task for telling the story of my life – and on that score the critics would be wrong, for my life has been a very interesting one. I shall confine myself however to proposing a few thoughts on the subject of ascertaining whether Guérin's Law applies to itself – in other words whether it is legitimate to complete it by the following amendment (which we might call "Michael's amendment"):

> **"...including Guérin's Law."**

* * * * * * * * * *

Let us note straight away that Guérin's Law does not forbid us to continue to seek confirmations of a law when we have formulated it: one may perfectly well go on finding facts that are consistent with that previously discovered illusory law. But these "consistent" facts can no longer confirm anything; they have no value as confirmations since – and this is what Guérin's Law states – other facts have been discovered in the meantime which show that the law is false.

Let us suppose for example that a Ufologist discovers a relationship between a UFO's acceleration and the energy of the luminous colour emitted by that UFO. Overjoyed with his discovery, he will announce to the world a law which says that the more rapid the acceleration of a UFO the more will the light it emits tend towards the blue. From this he will deduce that a hovering UFO will be dark red[2].

What will happen then?

Two things will happen:

(A) People will go on finding UFOs that turn bluer the more rapidly they accelerate.

(B) But they will also find stationary blue UFOs; and red UFOs accelerating abruptly, thus totally destroying the theory.

All this is in conformity with the first of Popper's seven principles, which says: "It is easy to obtain confirmations, or verifications, for nearly every new theory, if we look for confirmations."[3]

When Popper says "nearly every theory," this is because, even so, there exist theories for which one encounters real difficulties in finding confirmations, as, for example, the theory that the Moon is a Camembert cheese or indeed the theory that Nero burned the Papists because he was an Orangeman[4].

But a theory for which some confirmations have been found will assuredly find some more, even if it is false, and yet, just as soon as we have established the truth of a fact that was forbidden by the law, this law is falsified, however numerous its "confirmations" may be. *If the law were true no fact in contradiction to it could exist.*

In the ordinary sciences (all the sciences with the exception of Ufology) the laws we discover have a certain life-expectation. Sir John Eccles reckons for example that in biology a law can hold for fifteen years before being refuted (falsified): it is, he says, in that case a very good scientific law.

Guérin's Law serves notice on us that the laws of Ufology have *no* life-expectation whatsoever. Those features that have been the best proven in past observation never take very long to be falsified. As soon as it had been noticed that UFOs were round, square ones began to be seen. As soon as a correlation had been shown between Mars and the dates of the UFO Waves, there were uncorrelated Waves, etc.

* * * * * * * * * * * * *

Contrary to what one might think, Guérin's Law expresses an optimistic view of Ufology, and it is for this reason that I propose my amendment. For if it were truly proven that every law is refuted as soon as it is formulated, then at least something, in Ufology, would be proven. Which I don't believe. I believe that absolutely nothing is proven, *with the exception of precisely that which is required in order to prevent us from placing the problem in the bottom of a*

*drawer and never thinking about it again (but more than that).*

What would be needed for us to be able to do this, to close down FSR, send Hynek and Guérin back to their Astronomy, Creighton back to meditating on his Chinese ideograms, and Michel back to the study of the influence of the IRA and the Orangemen on Roman politics of the First Century?

What would be needed – and it would suffice – would be that we should know that there is nothing in it all or that, if there *is* anything in it, it is of no importance anyway.

This is why *"they,"* or *"somebody,"* or *"something,"* is showing us just enough for us to have no possible doubt that A) there *is* something, and B) that it is very important.

This is precisely what the mouse in the maze knows. The mouse cannot stop looking for the entrance to the maze. He cannot stop because all his motivations are activated by the constructor of the maze, and because the constructor of the maze knows the mouse's motivations better than the mouse himself knows them.

The rule is clearly that, when the mouse has found the door of the maze, *he is forthwith put into another maze.* This is what Guérin has noticed.

And there is another rule: you never put all the mice into the maze. Only a few. At any rate, so long as it is a maze.

There weren't very many of us in the maze until this last Wave. That was reassuring.

Since the start of this year, millions of other mice have entered the maze. Is it still a maze? Or is it something more disturbing than that?[5]

### Notes

1 Sir Karl R. Popper: *Conjectures and Refutations.* (London, Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1969 edition, p.36.)

2 Aimé Michel: *The Truth about Flying Saucers. (Sic.* But the original title in French is: *Lueurs sur les Soucoupes Volantes: (Glimmers of Light on the Flying Saucers*–A.M.). British edition: Pyramid Books, 1967, p.143.

3 Cf. note (1).

4 The difficulty about this theory is that in actual fact we do not know whether the Christians of Rome were Papists or Orangemen.

5 See Jean-Claude Bourret's very important new French book on the UFOs: *La Nouvelle Vague des Soucoupes Volantes (The New Flying Saucer Wave),* Editions France-Empire, 68, rue Jean-Jacques-Rousseau, 75001 Paris. Pub. June 1974, price 28 Francs.

* * * * * * * * *

P.S. I imagine that the readers of FSR are familiar with the writings of Sir Karl Popper? I think he is the greatest English philosopher of the century – more important than Bertrand Russell – but of course this is just one opinion.

### Translator's Note

I often feel it is a great pity that the readers of FSR cannot see the texts of Aimé Michel in the form in which they reach me. Monsieur Michel is an intensely busy man, whether away up there on his hill-top eyrie in the Basses Alpes, or in the French ORTF television studios in Paris. His articles are written at immense speed, and the unravelling of the handwritten text is often every bit as hard a nut to crack as any of my Chinese documents. Moreover, to liven things up a bit – and I feel sure that the bureaucrats of the Common Market in Brussels will be delighted to learn this – the Michelian texts come more and more frequently in an exquisite kind of *Franglais.*

Examples: *Le mouse in the maze...*

*Le mouse ne peut cesser de chercher la porte du maze...*

*Le constructeur connait mieux les motivations du mouse que le mouse.*

And: *on ne met jamais toutes les mice dans le maze."*

After a while, this sort of thing becomes *ahurissant,* as the French say. For example, just as I type out this final line it dawns on me for the first time that, like mouse and mice, *maze* is not a French word either, the French term being of course *labyrinthe* or *dèdale.*

G.C.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# THE IMPORTANCE OF BAVIC

Charles Bowen

PAINSTAKING research was the basis of an interesting study, *The Birthplaces of Prominent People in relation to Bavic*, by J-C. Dufour, which appeared in FSR Vol. 20, No. 1 (published July 1974). Dufour's devotion and dedication paid off, for he was able to show that a surprisingly high percentage of famous and gifted people had been born on, or very near to, the BAVIC line. A similar analysis of birthplaces relating to a randomly-chosen line drawn in a different direction across the map of France showed no comparable "peaking" effect, whereas the percentages of births of important people recorded at increasing distances from the second, random line, were remarkably similar to those recorded at identical distances from BAVIC.

A few readers have criticised us for bothering with such a study, one or two of them having been quite sharp with us for wasting valuable space. They are entitled to their opinions, but I would never agree that the space was wasted. My only concern is that when deciding to put M. Dufour's findings on record, I fell into the trap of *assuming* that everyone interested enough in UFO research to read *Flying Saucer Review* would know about BAVIC, and why it is important. My mistake was to fail to support M. Dufour's article with an explanatory piece about the line, particularly for the benefit of readers new to the subject. I will endeavour herein to remedy that omission.

### The great wave

In a three-monthly period from approximately mid-August to mid-November 1954, there was, in North-Western Europe, an immense incidence of UFO observations, with reports of everything from aerial 'flyovers' — some of a most bizarre nature — and great 'cloud cigars' spawning smaller disc-shaped objects, to landings and creatures, and often unpleasant contacts. This great wave seemed to be concentrated largely on France, but, as one would expect, there were a good number of reports from neighbouring countries like Britain, Belgium, Italy and Portugal.

### "Bavic" and orthoteny

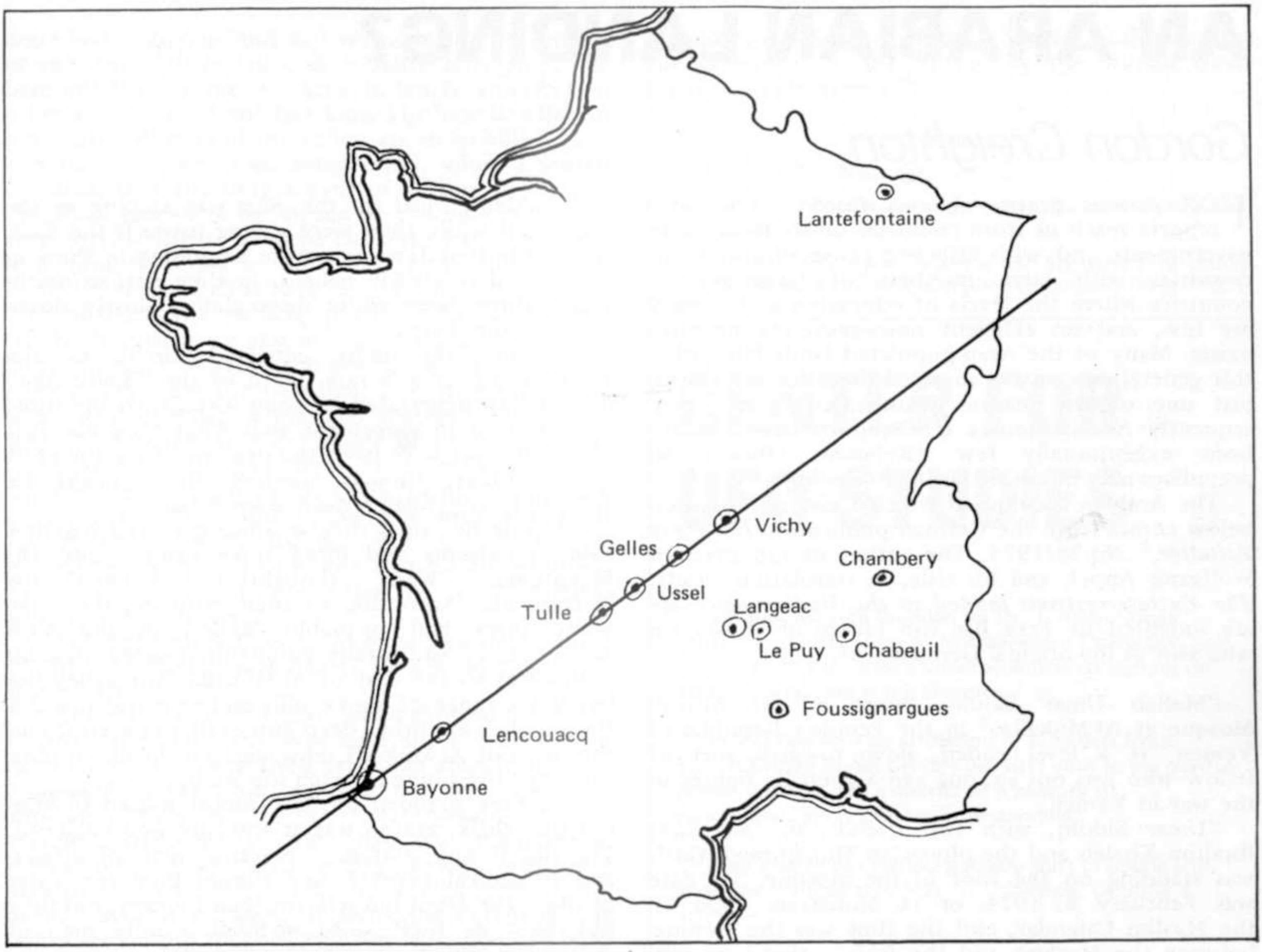
Prominent among those who collected and puzzled over these thousands of reports was Aimê Michel, who won fame with his excellent book on the 1952 wave, *Lueurs sur les Soucoupes Volantes* (trans: "Glimmers of light on flying saucers") which was published in English under the title *The Truth about Flying Saucers.* While Michel was seeking to find a pattern when plotting on his maps the locations of the observations that made up the glut of 1954 reports, his friend Jean Cocteau suggested an examination of the plots on a day-by-day basis, to ascertain whether or not some UFOs could have moved along lines which were, perhaps, of geomagnetic significance. One of the first days with really widespread reporting by a large number of witnesses, was September 24, 1954. When that day's locations were marked on a map, it was immediately obvious that six of them were seen to form a straight line extending from Bayonne to Vichy (hence the abbreviation *Bavic*) and beyond. The six points involved were located at Bayonne, Lencouacq, Tulle, Ussel, Gelles and Vichy. It was found later that the sites of other, less well-authenticated observations, were also located on the line.

Michel also discovered multi-point alignments on other days during the wave, and prompted by the success of his technique, which he called *orthoteny*, he proceeded to plot networks of alignments, three point and upwards, from report locations for all the main days of the wave. This, the first scientific discovery of "ufology," was published, with the accounts of the cases involved, in his famous book *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery* (Criterion Books, New York), and soon afterwards in France under the title *Mysterieux Objets Celestes* (Editions B. Arthaud, 1958, and Editions Planete, Paris, 1966). Subsequent debate (cf. J. & J. Vallee: *Challenge to Science: the UFO enigma)* has shown that three- and four-point alignments occur among random dispersals of points on a map with similar frequency to those plotted by Michel. In spite of this, the staggering significance of the major *multi*-point lines remains, and there has always been a very special "feeling" among many researchers about BAVIC' the first orthotenic line to be discovered.

Since the publication of Michel's second UFO book, other significant observations have been made right on the BAVIC line: one that springs readily to mind is the bizarre affair at the little hamlet of Vauriat (see FSR Vol. 9, No. 3 and No. 4 — May/June and July/August 1963). Jacques Vallée has also speculated on the possibility of increased incidence of UFO observations along global projections of the major orthotenic lines (FSR Vol. 9, No. 6, November/December 1963), but even more remarkable discoveries relating to the line were to follow some years later.

### UFOs in pre-history

In a delightful study entitled *Palaeolithic UFO-shapes* (see FSR Vol. 15, No. 6, November/December 1969), Aime Michel took stock of the wonderful Magdalenian Cave paintings of the middle and upper Paleolithic eras. He posed questions about certain symbols and painted shapes, some disc-like, some ovalloid, some domed, which appear in some of the




**The Bayonne-Vichy orthotenic line ("BAVIC"): sighting locations of September 24, 1954**

caves in France and Northern Spain, and which had long caused Savants to scratch their heads. Some of the paintings actually have shapes depicted in light and movement across the roof of the cave — as across the open night sky – or "taking-off" vividly from the ground. In a few isolated instances human-like figures were associated with the shapes, but for the most part the rule seems to be "animals only." And, pointed out Michel, these Magdalenians were such magnificent artists, the equal of any of the Renaissance, that they were quite capable of depicting what they *saw*, and that the strange UFO-shapes that they drew are to be found only in caves situated along, or very close to, BAVIC.

### The Saint and the Line

More was to follow. In a short study of the life, adventures and work of the great religious figure Saint Vincent de Paul (see An Enigmatic Figure of the XVIIth Century in FSR Vol. 18, No. 2, March/April 1972) Aimé Michel revealed that he had been greatly moved when, quite by chance while writing the article, he discovered that this peasant's son had been born in the hamlet of Pouy, which is exactly on BAVIC.

Thinking aloud in a later article, Michel wondered whether other famous and talented people could have been born on the line: where for example was the birthplace of that exquisite musical genius. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, in relation to the line? Well, Salzburg is not on the line but, not to be outdone, Michel wondered if his parents could possibly have "laid down his keel" on BAVIC. Intriguing thoughts, and ones that prompted M. Dufour to launch himself into his study which led to a further disclosure about the line which seems more than pure coincidence.

BAVIC has been closely and importantly associated with UFOs, and we have seen that UFOs are frequently observed in association with other paranormal phenomena, so it is possible that anything further of an unusual nature that is observed or discovered relating to BAVIC may not be without significance in this subject.

# AN ARABIAN LANDING?

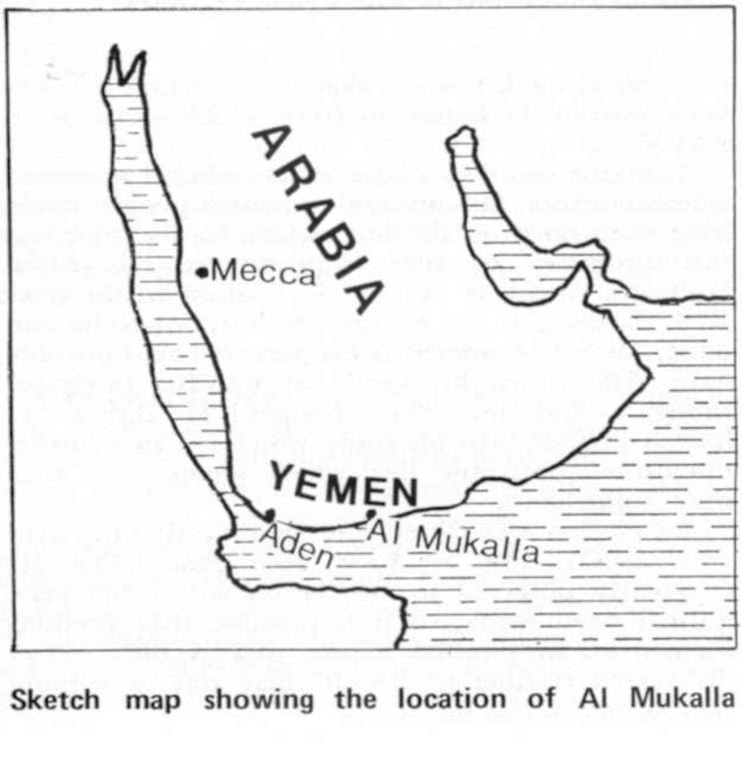
## Gordon Creighton

FOR various pretty obvious reasons, few UFO reports reach us from countries under totalitarian governments and with effective censorship systems, countries with large numbers of languages, or countries where the levels of education and literacy are low, and no efficient news-gathering network exists. Many of the Arab-populated lands fall within this general category – some of them for more than just one of the reasons enumerated – and consequently Arabian-source UFO reports have hitherto been exceptionally few. (Religious taboos and prejudices may of course also play a role.)

The Arabian account of which I give a translation below comes from the German publication *Das Neue Zeitalter*,[1] No.28/1974. The author of the article is Wolfgang Appel, and his title, in translation, reads: *The Extraterrestrials landed in the Hadhramaut.* We are indebted to Frau Ilse von Jacobi of Wiesbaden who sent us the original German text.

"Mullah Umar Siddiq, priest of the Al-Hud Mosque at Al-Mukalla,[2] in the People's Republic of Yemen, is a level-headed, down-to-earth sort of fellow who was not so long ago a guerrilla fighter in the war in Yemen.

"Umar Siddiq, with two friends, the merchant Ibrahim Khaleb and the physician Muhammed Watif, was standing on the roof of the mosque. The date was February 8, 1974, or 16 Muharram 1394 by the Muslim Calendar, and the time was the evening between the *Maghrib* and the *'Ishā* – that is to say, between the Evening Prayer and the Night Prayer.




**Sketch map showing the location of Al Mukalla**

"Suddenly, just as the Sun was sinking in the West, and while they were gazing towards the East, where the first few stars were beginning to show in the sky, they clearly beheld, to their vast astonishment, three large white discs gliding slowly down towards the Earth.

"Among the more educated circles of the Hadhramaut, at any rate, word of the "Space Age" has already penetrated to some extent, so the three friends were in agreement that what they had just observed must have been the descent of a number of space-capsules, though whether these might be Russian or American remained uncertain.

"Losing no time, they at once gathered together some provisions and hired three camels, and Dr. Muhammad Watif thoughtfully packed his instruments. According to their estimate, the three white discs had probably landed in the Wadi Jawlan, a dry and totally uninhabited valley some 50 kilometres to the east of Al-Mukalla. The valley lies beyond a range of rocky hills and runs out towards the coast. Two other deep gullies lie between it and the town of Al-Mukallā, however, and in fact it took the party five hours to reach the Wadi.

"As they plodded on, the doctor mused to himself that their caravan was at any rate well balanced. For did it not contain a practical man of affairs, and a medical expert? And should they encounter Shaitan, the Devil himself, on their journey, did they not have as their third member a holy man of Allahn the Mullah Umar Siddiq himself?

"At dawn they dismounted from their camels to say the Fajr, the Morning Prayer and, after that, to partake of a little refreshment. And just as the three men, kneeling on their prayer-rugs and facing towards Mecca in the North-West, had ended the *Taslīmat-at-Tahlīl*, the invocation of peace with which the prayer concludes, a vivid glow suddenly lit up the whole eastern sky.

"What they saw, as they turned to look, they described to me as follows:

" 'Although the Sun was not yet above the horizon in the East, the whole of the south-eastern sky above the Wadi Jawlan (still a few kilometres distant, behind the hills) was for a few seconds lit up and became as bright as noonday. The light was of yellowish-white colour, and came from three beams which were stabbing upwards and fanning out into the sky. The vivid light soon died down, but the three beams still remained visible for some time afterwards. Then they grew gradually paler and thinner, until finally they were lost in the light of dawn.'

"The party hurried on, and soon descended into the Wadi Jawlan. The valley of the Wadi, as they

described it to me, and as I was able to confirm for myself some days later, is roughly triangular, the base line being some two kms. in length and the two other sides both about five kms. The base line lies on the coast. All around the valley are steep hills. I have established to my own satisfaction, when I visited the area, that the only means of getting down into the Wadi Jawlan is by means of the very steep and very narrow flights of steps cut out of the rock-face in a number of places, and that getting down there is no easy job. Nowhere could any wheeled or caterpillar-tracked vehicle possibly get down into the Wadi Jawlan by any means whatsoever, whether from the land or from the sea. Between the mountains which form the base-line, it is true that there is a small opening, some 100 metres wide, which leads to the sea. But the whole of its mouth is so beset with rocks and reefs that no boat could possibly get through them. Consequently no vehicle or craft could possibly have got into the Wadi Jawlan unless it be by air. But, even then, no normal aircraft would be able to land there either, owing to the vast quantities of rock detritus scattered everywhere.

"The only craft that could have penetrated there would accordingly have had to be a helicopter. Or a space-craft.

"And what Mullah Umar Siddiq showed me, when I visited the place ten days later and beheld it with my own eyes, was nothing less than staggering. For, impressed in the sand, all over the area, were the absolutely clear-cut tracks of caterpillar-track-type vehicles. Whatever it was that had made these tracks must have been pretty heavy, not only because of the fact that the tracks were quite deep, but also because, all along the extent of the tracks, numerous rocks of volcanic *tuff* type had been crushed.

"From where could those tracks have come?

"For there are, in the whole of the Hadhramaut, no tanks whatsoever, and no tractors whatsoever.

"And why on earth should any foreign helicopter have brought any sort of caterpillar-tracked vehicle and set it down precisely in this wilderness of the Wadi Jawlan!

"And then, finally, came our most staggering discovery of all. For at three places, all about 100 metres apart, in the form of a regular triangle with sides some 5.3 metres long, we found scoop-marks, each 85 cms. in width. Right at the centre of this triangular zone were slabs of outcropping rock, and on this rock we could see areas where the rock had been fused and melted. And, along the whole extent of the triangle, the grass and thorn-scrub were burnt.

"I stayed in the Wadi Jawlan for three days, and made a painstaking examination of all these marks and traces in the hope that I might come upon some object or some further piece of evidence which might throw some light on these enigmatic phenomena, but in vain.

"Then I sent a report on the matter to NASA, but I have so far had no answer from them.[3]

"So I leave it to the public now to form their own conclusions regarding what I found, and regarding the statements made to me by the Mullah Umar Siddiq and his friends."

### Notes

1 In English: *The New Age.*

2 Mukalla or Makalla on some maps. Its coordinates are: 14°33 N.; 49°02 E.

3 I fear that Herr Appel is just a wee bit naive if he thinks he can extract any sort of reply or comment from NASA!


# CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES

This is the Institute founded by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, professor of astronomy at Northwestern University, and former U. S. Air Force civilian scientific consultant on UFO reports, who is the Director.

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## THE NBC DOCUMENTARY ON UFOs

In FSR Vol. 20, No. 2, an item under the title *Reporting UFOs on Film* told of preparations to screen on TV, in the United States, two films in which Dr. J. Allen Hynek had been one of the advisers on the script.

It is now known that the title of the first of these, an hour-long documentary to be broadcast by NBC on Sunday, December 15, 1974, is **UFOs: Do you Believe?**

It is still not known when the second film will be shown, but Dr. Hynek informs us that Ballantine Books is releasing a paperback based on the film.

C.B.

# THE "THINGS" AT YSSANDON

*Joël Mesnard*

**Translated from the French by Gordon Creighton**

THE task of the "ufologists" has two aspects, which are at the same time linked and yet distinct: namely the aspect of "popularization" and and the apsect of "research." Due to this double necessity to inform others and also inform oneself, the publication of a particular sighting may be of interest in both directions. On the one hand, the eyewitnesses to a case may be numerous, held competent and trustworthy, and their description of the phenomenon and the circumstances of its appearance may be known with precision. Such a case can convince sceptical readers, or non-alerted readers, of the existence of the "flying saucer phenomenon," and may make them realize the serious nature of what we are trying to do and the solid foundations on which it stands. Examples of such cases are those of Antananarivo, of the Brazilian sightings over Trinidade Island, of Lakenheath, etc. On the other hand it may happen that, although a particular case does not fulfil the conditions required for the foregoing category, it nevertheless may contain certain elements of information that are rare or that invite comparison with other cases. But it will only interest those for whom the existence of the UFO phenomenon is already a foregone conclusion.

The Yssandon sighting with which I am now going to deal belongs to this second category.

While very brief, poorly dated, and confused, it is at the same time particularly strange and indeed almost sinister. It will convince no one of the respectability of our researches. But it is of considerable richness from the point of view of what Oscar Galindez terms Comparative Ufology. Much has been written (either in astonishment or because the writer finds it entirely natural) regarding the fact that almost all the "occupants" of flying saucers possess a physical appearance comparable with our own. The cases in which, as it seems, creatures of a radically different aspect have been seen are rare. Here is one such case:

### The Sighting

The exact year is not known, and even a thoroughgoing investigation with the aid of eyewitnesses seems unable to elucidate it. It was somewhere around 1960. And what is certain is that it took place at about 11.00 p.m. on the last Sunday in August.

Monsieur and Madame Plumauzille were driving in their car along the secondary road that runs from La Prodelie to Ayen, in the *departement* of Correze. They had just made a detour around the Puy d'Yssandon (a peak). The road is winding, and is bordered, down on the right, by a meadow with many walnut trees. Above the road, on the left hand side, are more meadows and cultivated fields and then, just as one comes to the left-hand turn where the sighting took place, there is a wooded slope.

Suddenly, M. Plumauzille notices a reddish-violet light, with no precise outlines, level with the trees on the right hand side of the road. At first he thinks it is quite far away, but then he sees it rise and he realizes that it is only about 100 metres from them. Almost directly after that, he sees, lit up by his headlights, and also on the right hand side of the road, a mass of the size of a big sack of potatoes which is rapidly contracting and seems to be collapsing inwardly upon itself. And then both he and his wife see a number of other masses similar to the first one, but smaller, of the size, say, of Rugby footballs, "humpy," misshapen, moving about in the grass in the ditch beside the road. At least two of them cross the road in front of the approaching car and disappear in the bracken in the ditch on the left. The car was not travelling very fast and the two witnesses feel no shock – at least not in the physical sense of the word – and they do not think that the car hit any of the objects. M. Plumauzille does not stop. The reddish-violet light in the sky has vanished. The sighting is over.

### Description of the shapes

Madame Plumauzille did not see the reddish-violet light. She only saw three or four of the "things," one of them being larger than the other two. She compares their form to that type of big knobbly potatoes which have globular excrescences. The movements of the objects put her in mind of the movement of a sack with a person or an animal inside it. She thinks that it was this deformation that enabled the shapes to move, by contraction, by the inflation and deflation of their swellings. The bodies were not luminous in themselves, and were only visible because the car headlights lit them up. Their colour was a light brownish-grey, comparable to the colour of wrapping paper or a jute sack, but their surface looked smooth.

One would naturally have dearly loved to get many more precise details. But it must be borne in mind that the sighting dates from about fourteen or fifteen years ago, and that it lasted but a few seconds in conditions that are far from being excellent. And it is clear that the witnesses, surprised, indeed alarmed, had time neither to count the objects nor to measure them and take in their appearance and their movements in great detail.

Monsieur Plumauzille uses a great many com-

parisons in describing what he saw. He describes the objects as shapeless, vague, blurred...Their appearance reminds him of a transparent plastic bag, and their movement suggests to him the movement of an animal imprisoned in such a bag. He thinks the bodies were there in quite large numbers: "They were all over the place, down below the road...the place was just swarming with them...we might very easily have run over one of them..." Everything induces him to think that they had been put down there by the luminous red mass.

One is at a loss to say whether these were objects or creatures. The vaguest word is the best word for describing them. In any case it may be noted that these bodies, including the biggest "bag" (out of which the others may perhaps have come?) had a few instants in which – if they were in any fashion capable of observing their surroundings – to perceive the arrival of the car. Nevertheless several of them crossed the road in a manner that appears to have been imprudent. Madame Plumauzille had the impression that they were trying, perhaps awkwardly, to escape from the car and hide behind the bank on the left hand side of the road.

### Comparison with other cases

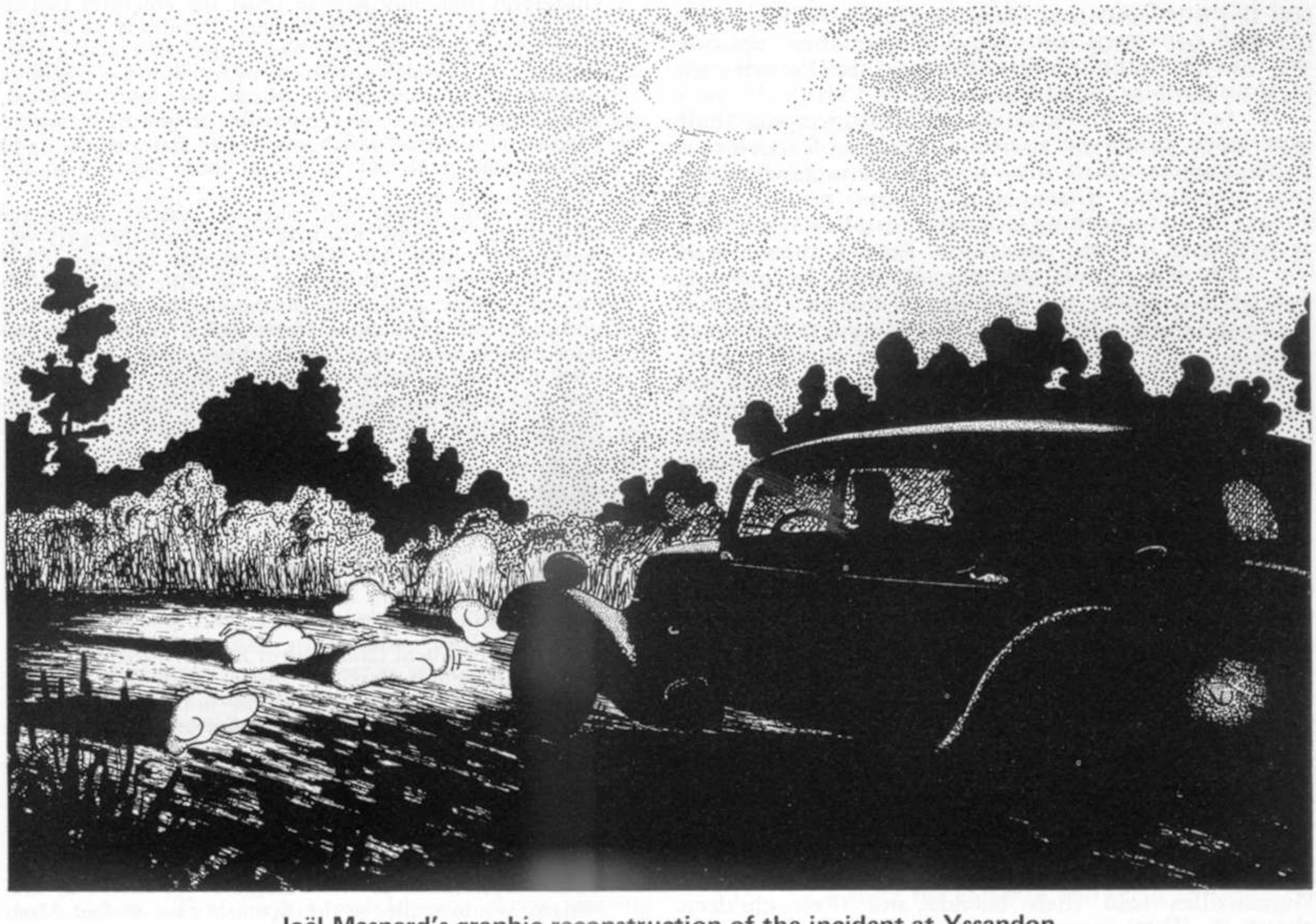
Taken as a whole, the Yssandon case recalls in a striking fashion the case reported by Antonio Ribera in *Phénomènes Spatiaux* No. 24 (June 1970) and which happened at San Marti de Tous in Spain.[1] The similitude is not total, but the possible resemblances are very numerous. On a lower level of resemblance we might also compare it with the Domsten case in Sweden,[2] and with cases given in the undermentioned sources:

Gaddis, V. *Mysterious Fires And Lights*, p.42.
*Inforespace*, No.5, p.23.
*Phénomènes Spatiaux*, No.1, p.13.
*FSR*, Vol.18, No.4 (July-August 1972), p.15.[3]
*Phénomènes Spatiaux*, No.25, p.26.[4]

Once again we observe that the possible comparisons between various cases are only partial. Certain features are common, while other features are absolutely different. And we find this same result, whichever aspect of the UFO phenomenon we examine. The sizes of the objects, their shapes, their movements, the traces they leave, their luminous emanations, the morphology and behaviour of the pilots, all present the same character.

We find that there are similarities which suffice to confer upon the global phenomenon a certain unity, but these similarities are always mixed with dissimilarities.

We would seek in vain for two cases presenting, if not a total resemblance, at least a very profound similarity, such as, say, the similarity that exists



**Joël Mesnard's graphic reconstruction of the incident at Yssandon**

between one airplane and another airplane of the same type, or between one horse and another horse. We have the impression that the phenomenon adopts a far more varied gamut of appearance than is shown by any terrestrial creatures or craft.

### Notes on the testimony

I am personally convinced, as far as anyone can possibly be, of the good faith of the witnesses. However, it would be dishonest if one did not note that these friendly and affable people are endowed with an imagination and an interest in the unusual such as are but rarely encountered. And this fact invests their testimony with a less rigorous and more subjective characrer than we might have desired.

Madame Plumauzille, when trying to recall the year when the sighting occurred, employed a pendulum, an instrument which she uses quite frequently and one which is not generally recognized as possessing the qualities of the measuring instruments in current use, or of an ordinary calendar.

After she had given me her account of the sighting, she told me that a few years ago, somewhere in Auvernge or La Creuse, a farmer found himself obliged to cede to the advances of a creature of the feminine sex which had emerged from a flying saucer. The striking analogy between this story and a well known Brazilian case prompted me to secure from her all possible details, and in the end it turned out that Madame Plumauzville's memory had converted into one and the same episode the case of Antonio Villas Boas and the French case of Monsieur Mazaud at Mourieras.

In fact the Plumauzilles, following upon their experience, preserved a certain number of articles on flying saucers which they had found in newspapers and magazines. There is of course nothing surprising in that. Nothing is more natural than that the eyewitnesses to an apparition should thenceforth feel curiosity about the phenomenon in general. Indeed it is rather the absence of this reaction that strikes one as glaring when one encounters it in such cases.

Monsieur Plumauzille's interests, however, are not confined to flying saucers. He is also interested in Prehistory. This too is entirely natural if one lives in Correze. As he is a dealer in pottery-ware and himself manufactures a certain amount of pottery-ware and sculptures, his taste for the mysterious supplies him with themes of inspiration for his work. His imagination is powerful and lively, very developed, and involving such elements as the Sun and stars and the Universe, the ancient Gauls, sexuality, etc. It must however be emphasised that the fact that he possesses a lively imagination does not seem to me to furnish any reason why our confidence in the story told by himself and his wife should be impaired. Even a strong imagination of this kind and a liking for the fantastic do not imply that the person possessing them is given to visions or affabulation.

What is in any case certain is that, immediately after they had experienced their adventure, the Plumauzilles told their friends and their children about it. They never pass the spot now without recalling the weird things they saw that night, and Madame Plumauzille never sees an oddly shaped potato without thinking of those strange forms.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

### NOTES by Gordon Creighton

1 So far as I can recall, this very curious Spanish case has not yet been translated into English, and is merely one of the many hundreds that I would like to tackle one day if the span of human life here permits. The case is indeed rather similar. During the night of September 11, 1968, a Spanish gentleman, designated only by the pseudonym of "Miguel Costa," saw four weird shiny grey metallic objects shaped like the figure "8" moving up the side of a conical hill near Barcelona. Above the top of the hill, which was some 50-60 metres high, a huge orange-reddish oval object was hovering, and the "8"-shaped figures seem to have hastened up the hill, travelling in the expansion-retration fashion used by worms and maggots, and to have entered the large craft which then moved off and was out of sight in a flash.

2 This is the terrifying case of the young Swedes, Rydberg and Gustavsson, who, late at night on December 20, 1958, were driving home from a dance when they stopped to observe a luminous object standing in a glade. They were then seized by four amorphous leaden-grey creatures about one metre high, "shaped like scones or skittles," which tried to drag them into the craft. Gustavsson was only able to resist the creatures (which concentrated on him) by clinging frantically to a signpost. Meanwhile Rydberg had fought free and got to the car and sounded the horn, whereupon the creatures fled back to their UFO which rose and vanished. Rydberg said that it was impossible to get a grip on the jellylike creatures, "which smelt like stale marsh," and that his right arm sank in one of them right up to the elbow.

This case (which for obvious reasons has never pleased the "Cosmic Brothers" school of thought) was mentioned briefly by Waveney Girvan on page 5 of FSR for November/December 1959 (the first issue of his editorship) and had, I think, also been noted previously in FSR, but I have failed to turn up the reference. It seems that the Swedish Defence authorities who questioned Gustavsson and Rydberg took the case only too seriously and therefore killed it promptly with ridicule. (As I do not think we have ever seen the full story, will any of our Swedish readers who see this kindly get and translate for us the full account, so that we can print it?)

3 This is Hubert Malthaner's fascinating account of the spherical object seen bowling along a German road in April 1970, but I hardly see any relation between it and the very rare category of "shapeless creatures" or sack-like, maggot-like, creatures.

4 This is the excellent *Catalogue of Extraterrestrial Humanoid Types* by our Brazilian friend Jader U. Pereira of Porto Alegre. It has appeared in full in *Phênomènes Spatiaux*, and is another of the important articles which, to my great regret, I have not yet been able to tackle. I have it on my list. Joel Mesnard's reference here is of course not to the humanoid types, but to Jader Pereira's appendix, in which he lists nine other known cases in which entities of non-human form were reported.

It looks however as though the only one that bears much resemblance to the "maggots" of Monsieur and Madame Plumauzille is the Spanish case at San Marti de Tous (see Footnote 1 above).

# ANTHROPOID AND UFO IN INDIANA

## *Jerome Clark*

JUST as the bizarre "Momo" scare was ending in Louisiana, Missouri, towards the end of July 1972[1], an equally strange, if considerably less well publicized series of events erupted in the tiny (pop. 900) town of Roachdale in west-central Indiana located 40 miles west of Indianapolis.[2]

The first witnesses were Mrs. Lou Rogers and her infant son Keith. One night during the first week of August Mrs. Rogers had stepped outside the family's rural trailer house to roll up the windows of the car, since the sky had clouded up and rain had begun to sprinkle. As she did so, she thought she heard a sort of growl in the darkness, a "boo" or "oo" sound. Momentarily puzzled, she proceeded to ignore the sound (explaining to me later that "...you hear all kinds of strange noises in the country") and went about her work.

Then she heard it again and this time Keith became terrified. The growl, a "real deep" one, sounded as if it had emanated from a human rather than an animal voice, and whatever had made it seemed now to be breathing down her neck. She turned around slowly but could see nothing. Thoroughly shaken, she and Keith fled into the house.

She did not know it then, but an hour and a half earlier one of her younger brothers, looking out of a Ladoga, Indiana, farmhouse window, had seen what he thought was the explosion of a plane. He had observed a luminous object sailing through the sky, alighting over a cornfield separating Randy and Lou Rogers' house from a neighbour's; the object hovered briefly and then "just sort of blew up" – silently. This cornfield would house the creature which for the next few weeks would terrify the people of Roachdale and cause some of them to fear the Second Coming was at hand.

Over the next couple of nights the Rogerses heard odd noises around the yard. "It sounded as if something was going around the place pounding the siding and windows," Randy Rogers said. "Whatever it was, it must have gotten braver each night because the noise got louder and louder with each night." Rogers borrowed his father's shotgun to protect himself and his family. Whenever the marauder came around, he would rush outside into the night to glimpse an enormously broad-shouldered, shadowy biped escaping into the cornfield. The thing stood about six feet tall.

"At a certain hour," Lou Rogers said, "it would always come around – between 10.00 and 11.30 at night. You could feel it coming somehow. It's hard to explain. The feeling would just keep getting stronger and stronger, and then when it got strongest so you knew something had to happen, the knocking would start. This happened every night for two or three weeks.

"Another thing about it – it smelled *rotten.* Like dead animals or garbage."

Because it appeared only under cover of darkness the Rogerses never saw it completely clearly, but they were able to observe that it was hairy and black. Once, as Mrs. Rogers washed dishes, the creature ducked up and down on the other side of the window above the sink.

"We sort of thought it might be a gorilla," she said. "It would stand like a man but it would run on all fours. Even on all fours it was as tall as my husband, who's 5 feet 9 inches. It was real broad.

"I was never exactly afraid of it. If it was going to hurt me, it would have that first night. I had no awareness of it in the daytime, no fear of it. I'd even leave the doors open. Sometimes I'd put out garbage and later it would be gone. My husband thought I was crazy, trying to make friends like that. My little boy would never go out alone to play. But I was pretty curious about it.

"What was weird was that we could never find tracks, even when it ran over mud. It would run and jump but it was like somehow it wasn't touching anything. When it ran through weeds, you couldn't hear anything. And sometimes when you looked at it, it looked like you could see *through* it."

Once, however, she and her younger brother came upon a pair of tracks made by something that stood on two feet – or rather, a foot and a stub – but these were only three inches in diameter, much smaller, she was sure, than the creature she had observed would have left. She had no idea what had made them.

Nor did she know how a plastic "flying saucer" toy showed up at the house one day. It did not belong to her son, who displayed no interest in it and placed it out among the garbage. The next day it was gone.

Over the next three weeks other Roachdale area residents reportedly viewed the creature. They did not accept its presence as calmly as the Rogerses had. An estimated three dozen persons claimed encounters with the beast, described as huge and gorilla-like, with shining eyes. Conservation Officer William Woodall of Crawfordsville interviewed a number of witnesses as the panic spread. He admitted he had no answers.

### A taste for children and salad

The most spectacular report came from the Carter

Burdine farm, which lost all but 30 of its 200 chickens to the mysterious intruder. The first attack occurred on the evening of August 22, when Carter and his uncle, Bill ("Junior") Burdine, drove into the farmyard to discover the remains of over 60 chickens scattered along a path leading 200 feet from the coop to the front yard of the house. There was no evidence that the killer had eaten the chickens; it had merely ripped them apart.

Town Marshal Leroy Cloncs arrived to investigate a few minutes later. As the three stood talking, they heard a noise between the chicken coop and the road. Cloncs got into his car and drove slowly up the road while Junior Burdine walked behind. Suddenly something shot out of the ditch and dashed across the road six feet in front of Burdine, moving so fast that he could neither see it very well nor get a chance to shoot at it.

Junior and Carter found the spot where it had crossed the fence. "That fence was just mashed to the ground," Junior told me. "That thing was *heavy*." Unlike the manifestation the Rogerses had experienced, this one had left a trail of trampled weeds and grass. Carter, who heard it, said it was running on two feet.

The Burdines discovered that the marauder had helped itself to tomatoes and cucumbers which had been left in a pail for hog feed. They also checked the family dogs to see if they had any blood and feathers on them, but they did not. In fact, the two men noticed that the meanest dog was acting with uncharacteristic timidity – it was cowering up against the porch. "The other dog was so frightened it wouldn't come out of its pen," Carter recalled later.

The thing returned a few hours later. Carter and Junior had just returned to the farm after having left Carter's wife in Roachdale with some relatives. In the headlights they saw the creature standing in the chicken-house door.

"This thing completely blocked out the lights inside the chickenhouse," Junior said. "The door is 6′ x 8′. Its shoulders came up to the top of the door, up to where the neck should have been. But this thing didn't have a neck. To me it looked like an orang-utan or a gorilla. It had long hair, with kind of a brownish cast to it. Sort of a rust-lookin' colour. I never saw its eyes or its face. It was making a groaning racket."

The creature ran to the barn and leaped into the hay mow, followed by Carter and his father, Herman Burdine, guns ready. Meanwhile Junior circled around the building, suddenly shouting: "Bring me a light!"

Herman said: "By the time Carter and I got out of the barn and around the corner, my brother was firing at something across the field. I didn't see a thing but I pulled up and started firing in the same direction."

"I shot four times with a pump shotgun," Junior said. "The thing was only about a hundred feet away when I started shooting. I must have hit it. I've killed a lot of rabbits at that distance."

It was not only that Junior's shooting did not stop or slow the creature's flight, however. What troubled him most was that the thing gave no indication that it had even been touched. Its hair did not fly up and it spilled no blood. It made no sound as it ran and it left no tracks.

Back at the chickenhouse the Burdines counted 110 dead birds, all ripped open and drained of blood. Later, when Officer Woodall investigated, he carefully examined the strewn remains for traces of hair or any other physical clues to the killer's identity. He found nothing.

"I never could find any concrete physical evidence," Woodall informed me some time afterwards. "All I ever had to go on were a lot of people's stories of what they saw. I think I couldn't find any tracks because the ground was hard and the vegetation was high."

### Dogs and a pig killed

By the end of the week the scare had run its course and the creature had vanished. In mid-September, however, several persons in a sparsely-settled, heavily-wooded region along the Parke-Fountain County line north of Roachdale reported seeing a "10-foot-tall monster...covered with fur... [with] feet 21 inches long." It supposedly had killed two coon dogs and a pig by slashing them across the stomach.

"Apparently," the *Crawfordsville Journal and Review* concluded, "this monster, just as the creature from Roachdale, will be listed as another of west-central Indiana's UFOs (unidentified furry objects)."

During the summer of 1972 sightings of hairy "monsters" took place in Louisiana, Missouri; Roachdale, Indiana; Springdale, Arkansas; Peoria, Pekin and Cairo, Illinois; and Cleveland, Ohio. There is increasing reason to believe, as this and our earlier *Flying Saucer Review* article have shown,[1] that these "para-anthropoids" are related in some way to UFOs. Perhaps not in the way little men and golden-haired "Venusians" are; that is, we do not know that the para-anthropoids are actual UFO occupants. All we are certain of is that they and unconventional aerial objects have a disconcerting habit of appearing in the same places together. They also share a certain puzzling reluctance to provide us with the kind of direct physical evidence we would expect of unknown yet ultimately basically conventional phenomena (such as nuts-and-bolts spacecraft and flesh-and-blood animals): again, the frustrating problem of trying to measure things that seem both to exist and not to exist.

It is all compounded, finally, by the intrusion of unwelcome and unwanted psychic elements. In the end we are forced to wonder what apparitions out of our animal past have to do with ghosts from a Space Age future.—Moorhead, April 1974

### Notes


1. Jerome Clark and Loren Coleman, "Anthropoids, Monsters and UFOs," *Flying Saucer Review,* January/February 1973.
2. Jerome Clark, "On the Trail of Unidentified Furry Objects," *Fate* (American edition), August 1973. A more detailed account of this and other para-anthropoid sightings will appear in Clark and Coleman's Procession *of the Damned,* to be published by Warner Paperback Library.

# AN "ARMY OF HUMANOIDS" STATED TO HAVE LANDED IN SPAIN

*Ignacio Darnaude*

**Translated from the Spanish by Gordon Creighton**

THE scene of this extraordinary case is a farm known as *Los Lunarejos* and owned by Lt. General Gabriel Tassara Buiza. It lies about two kilometres from the town of Aznacóllar, and about 40 km. from Sevilla, Capital of the State of the same name in Southern Spain. A region of high-quality soil, it produces cereals and spring crops. There are many artesian wells upon it, and it is also watered by the small river known as el arroyo del Pilar Viejo. Not far distant, at Aznacóllar, are the world's largest deposits of iron pyrites, now being exploited by the firm of Andaluza de Piritas S.A., but there is a certain lack of minerals in the land of the *Los Lunarejos* farm.

At the time of the episode the field in question was planted with a crop of melons, owned jointly by the proprietor and two brothers named Pérez Miranda, nicknamed "Los Chícharos."[1]

As regards the precise date of the episode, we have not yet managed to establish this. It was in September 1971, so much is certain, and most probably on the 11th, 12th or 13th day of that month, as it seems that the local population were engaged in festive celebrations at the time, and the regular dates for the local saint's day festivities (romería) are those three days.

The eyewitness, Juan Rodríguez Domínguez, better known in Aznacollar by the nickname of "Juan el de la Palmareña," is 82 years old, and lives with his only son, who is married, in the calle Martín Ruiz. He is a former miner and stone-quarry worker, but for some years past he has been employed as an agricultural day-labourer. We ourselves know him well, as it so happens that, about fifteen years ago, he worked for us as a shepherd. He is an excellent worker, reliable and thorough, who likes everything to be straight-forward and properly ordered. He likes to hum the *flamenco* airs, and he is extraordinarily fond of hunting and of his beloved shotgun. He is illiterate, with only the most rudimentary of intellectual capacities, and the neighbours will assure you, with a touch of malice, that he is "as dumb as a heap of wheat on the threshing-floor."

He is a shy, solitary type of old fellow, who has few social dealings with anyone, and known to be quite bad-tempered. We will wager our own right hand that he is totally incapable of inventing a story so sophisticated as the one he told us, a story so completely alien to the narrow sphere of his daily life.

In September 1971, old Juan was giving a helping hand with the melon crop of the Chícharo brothers, and he was staying there in a hut on the farm at nights, in order to act as nightwatchman.

On the night in question, the two brothers, Antonio and Felipe *("los Chícharos")* were sitting enjoying the evening air at the entrance to the bar known as *El Letra,* on the outskirts of Aznalcollar and beside the road which leads into town from the *Los Lunarejos* farm. Suddenly they were amazed to see old Juan, who appeared before them, "all shaken up and a-sweating like a duck," as the Spanish peasants say, with a handkerchief round his neck, a slice of bread in his hand, and in a lather of great excitement. The conversation between the Chícharo brothers and old Juan ran more or less as follows:—

Q. "What's the matter, Juan? Has someone been pinching the melons?"

A. "No. It's just that I'm looking for you! A huge great thing landed out there, as big as a *Pegasus* bus.[3] And people started coming down out of it, and they shone a light on me, and I just came here stumbling across the fields..."

Q: "What's that you say? Why, you just took scared. You've been sleeping, and then woken up sudden, and you saw the lights of the tractor of old Don Juan,[4] or maybe you saw the stubble being burnt off over there on the hill at Cerro el Be!"

A: "No, I tell you. It wasn't that! What I saw were like the *Viajero.*[5] And they put down a party of 'em. And they shone the light in my eyes. I saw the men. I saw 'em, walking about on the ground!"

To all this the reaction of the Chícharo brothers was naturally one of total incredulity. They thought old Juan had been dreaming, or had been hallucinated, or maybe he was going senile, or possibly simply he was going out of his mind. Not the slightest degree of curiosity did they feel; not the slightest apprehension that perhaps somebody might be stealing their melon crop. And at that late hour they certainly had not the faintest intention of going to the field and checking up on old Juan la Palmareña's crazy talk.

Subsequently, when the story had become known around the town, nobody else paid any heed to old Juan either, and nobody took the trouble to verify his extraordinary tale.

### The details of the case

It was still daylight, and just before nightfall. Old Juan de la Palmareña was in his little hut out on the melon-field. At a distance of some 350 meters from the hut, and close to the stream, was one of the artesian wells. It was a fairly deep one, about 60 cms. in diameter, fitted with a steel pipe, and it was used for irrigating the field. (Actually the well had been yielding little water of late, and so the steel pipe had been removed and put into another well that was giving a better yield. Consequently all that there was at the time in question at that spot was the old well-hole, now filled with mud.) Not far from the well there was a natural hollow[6] in the field. The well itself was on a fairly high part of the field, so that from it one had a good view around over the property.

Old Juan was busily humming one of his tunes when he suddenly saw a great machine touch down close by the well, and from it he saw a number of "persons" descending. Their number was indeterminate. But they were *very numerous,* as old Juan tells us. Maybe over fifty.

In stature and appearance they were "normal," and apparently they presented no special distinguishing features. They were all wearing blue "uniforms," and wore no hats or helmets. They were advancing in formation. Possibly on account of their "uniforms," and on account of his own memories of bygone days in the Spanish Army, he has never spoken of them other than as "soldiers." Indeed, he calls them "The Force."

By now they were heading for the artesian well, and shortly after that he lost sight of most of them, from which we can assume that they had gone down into the depression in the field, the bottom of which depression could not be seen from the site of the artesian well. Five or six of their "chiefs" (as he called them) had remained behind however on one of the slopes, and were looking towards him. These "chiefs" got out something which he said looked like a lamp, and shone its light into the old watchman's eyes. Juan thereupon took refuge from the troublesome light by hiding behind the well. But when he ventured to show himself again, the "chiefs" shone the "lantern" on him once more.

By this time it was quite dark, and, from the way things were going, old Juan, thoroughly scared, felt that he had better betake himself into the town. So, stumbling and falling, he set off through the darkness. Two of the "chiefs" followed him with their "lantern" until he was very near to the outskirts of Aznalcóllar, where he finally arrived as described in a thoroughly dishevelled and wrought up state, and his story about the "regiment of men who had landed" was of course simply taken as a sign that he was mad.

Old Juan knows not a thing about extraterrestrials, and he has admitted to us, in private, that he thought it must all be "some secret military operation that was being hatched up; some ambush, or some political plot agin the Government."

### The following days

On the days following upon his experience, old Juan kept returning time and again to the scene of the landing, and, everytime he did so, he came back saying: "Let them who want to go and look at the marks they've left!"

Though it seems incredible, neither the Chícharo brothers nor anybody else took the trouble to walk that brief distance of a few metres which separates the melon field from the well and see for themselves the marks on the ground about which old Juan was constantly talking. Not a soul took him seriously. Indeed, on the contrary. They started making fun of him, and trying to make him change his mind about what he had seen. But they soon had to desist from this, by reason of old Juan's extreme irritability. For he went so far as to draw his knife on them when they mocked and opposed him and tried to convince him that he had seen nothing at all.

All the time, however, old Juan was now scared. And he constantly kept his shotgun close at hand. Things reached such a point that finally, fearing he might "drill a hole in somebody," the Chícharo brothers decided to take away his cartridges.

As regards the question of the Spanish Authorities, old Juan told his story, "informally and unofficially," to the Guardia Civil personnel who were on duty at the barracks nearby, but they too thought that he "had a screw loose," and they too shrugged their shoulders. No official statement was drawn up by them for him to sign.

### The Investigation

Shortly after that, during the gathering of the olive crop in September, 1971, we saw the Chícharo brothers daily, but they said nothing to us about the affair. Nor did any of the other workers mention it, which is further proof of how little heed had been paid to the "tale" told by old Juan de la Palmarena.

The "first whiff" of the affair reached us only two-and-a-half years later, in the spring of 1974, during a night vigil which was held in Aznalcóllar. The first interview with the witness was conducted by Manuel Osuna and Felipe Laffitte, and the last-named has the taped recording of it.

Then, on April 19, 1974, Manuel Osuna and I went to the spot with old Juan and the latter's nephew. A few days later, we again went over the *Los Lunarejos* farm with Antonio el Chícharo, and took a statement from him. Then Pedro del Prado, the Justice of the Peace in Aznalcóllar, interrogated the other brother, Felipe el Chícharo, who made a statement which corroborates in all respects the declarations made by his brother Antonio.

#### Notes by translator

1 Sr. Ignacio Darnaude states that the Chícharo brothers enjoy a very good reputation locally as decent, honest folk.

2 Once again the witness is an aged rustic, which reminds us of the recent case of Ventura Maceiras in Argentina. (See the article by Pedro Romaniuk in FSR Vol. 19 No.4 (July/August 1973.)

3 This, as Sr. Darnaude explains, is the type of coach used on the local bus-service between Sevilla and Aznalcollar.)

4 Sr. Juan Tassara, owner of an adjoining piece of land.

5 "The Traveller" – presumably the local nickname for the bus.

6 Like all farmers, the Chicharo brothers and old Juan have names for all the different corners of a field. This hollow or depression is called by them "La Alberca." (In English: "The Pond.")

# AN EARLY ITALIAN CROSS-COUNTRY CASE

## Mary Boyd

CHARLES BOWEN[1] and Hubert Malthaner[2] have given us accounts of curious objects seen bowling along across the countryside. I give below a translation of a similar type of story from Italy, which appears in the new Italian book *UFO In Italia.*[3]

The date was a Thursday afternoon in May 1931, on the Italian island of Sardinia. The eyewitnesses, Signor Pasquale Masala (who is still alive and residing at Nova Milanese, Via XX Settembre No. 28) and a friend, were out riding their horses, and had reached a prehistoric dolmen *(nuraghe)* at a place called Trudumeddu, some 7 kms. from Paulilatino, in the district of Caglieri. In that district there are a number of these *nuraghi* (prehistoric fortified conical dwellings somewhat resembling dolmens).

The afternoon was warm, with a clear sky and dry air. The time was about 4.30 p.m. The two men had dismounted and were admiring the view when suddenly and most unexpectedly a strange object emerged from the partially blocked entrance of the *nuraghe* standing in the middle of the field. The best definition that Marsala could give of the object was "a brand-new football."[4] In fact it was so like one, and it passed so near to him, that he actually had the impression of seeing its "stitching."

The "football," which did not rotate, was travelling from West to East at a height of about one metre above the ground and at a constant speed thathe estimated at between 16 and 20 kms. per hour, "or the equivalent of the speed of a running boy." It passed right across the field before their astonished gaze and entered a thick growth of stumps of bushes and underwood up to three metres or so in height. After the first moment of hesitation and amazement, Marsala ran off in pursuit of the disconcerting sphere, which all the time was following a straight, steady bee-line of flight.

The witness noticed that the undergrowth parted in front of the "football," and the bushes bent over, but once it had passed on they closed and straightened up again. In other words, they opened up a passageway *before* coming in contact with it, as though displaced by a mysterious and invisible force that preceded the flying object.

Pasquale Masala was unable to overtake the object, due to the rough ground and the vegetation, which slowed him down, whereas the mystery sphere found no obstacles in its path.

His companion, meanwhile, had remained behind near the dolmen, terrified, and kept shouting to him to come back. So, after chasing the object for nearly a kilometre, Masala gave up and returned. The "football" had vanished from sight amidst the thick undergrowth.

Marsala would have liked to enter the *nuraghe* and make a thorough search there, but once again he was prevailed upon by his companion, who, frightened to death, refused in no uncertain terms to help him and insisted on their leaving the place.

The two remounted their horses and returned to the village, but told nobody of their experience, either because they themselves could scarcely believe what they had seen, or because of their fear of being taken for visionaries.

The original sources for this report in *UFO In Italia* are letters dated February 17, 1972 and June 9, 1972 from Pasquale Masala to the editor of the Italian fortean and ufological journal *Il Giornale dei Misteri,* issue No. 19 (pages 8-9).

### NOTES

1 See *Cross-Country Cog Wheels* (FSR, September/October 1966).

2 See *Mystery Flying Object Rolls Along a German Road* (FSR, July/August 1972).

3 *UFO In Italia (UFOs In Italy),* published by Corrado Tedeschi, Firenze (Florence) 1974, 249 pages. Price: Lira 3,5OO. The authors are Messrs. Boncompagni, Conti Lamperi, Ricci and Sani, all of whom are members of the Firenze UFO research group, S.U.F., and are regular writers for *Il Giornale dei Misteri,* which is also published by Corrado Tedeschi. The book, which will eventually run to three volumes, is a very good factual documented account of the UFO phenomenon in Italy since its inception. This first volume covers the years 1907-1953. The authors are objective, and abstain from pre-conceived theories, though they do reject the idea of "Martians and Venusians" bringing us messages of peace. They give a good general picture and evaluation of the views of various experts, among whom Dr. J. Allen Hynek figures prominently.

Until recently, except for momentary bursts of curiosity, Italians in general have been completely indifferent to UFOs, which they associated with Science Fiction and "green Martians." Those who did take an interest were more concerned with the phenomenon abroad, but it is now evident that the Italian flap of 1954 was at least equal to – and perhaps even exceeded – the Wave in France. Today however there is a growing interest throughout Italy, and especially among the young, and since 1971 enthusiastic research groups have sprung up all over the country. The CUN (Italian National UFO Research Centre, in Milan) is the principal investigating centre and publishes the excellent bulletin *Notiziario UFO.*

4 The spherical type of "Soccer" football is presumably meant.

# "PARALLELISM" AS A TERMINOLOGY & CLASSIFICATION FOR CONCEPTS IN UFOLOGY

*Jonathan M. Caplan*

THERE has recently arisen a growing suspicion that the techniques of the parapsychological phenomena bear strong resemblance to those of the UFO phenomenon itself. It is this suspicion that has motivated a strong body of opinion to campaign for the widening of the terms of reference of UFO investigation to include such subjects as occult, religion, parapsychology, spiritualism, folklore and demonology. What was once thought of as purely an extraterrestrial and physical phenomenon has thus become a tangled skein of phenomena whose physical nature and extraterrestrial source are by no means certain.

This sudden expansion of the field of study may, however, prove obscure and disastrous if the new thinking that it stimulates fails to find a clear and consistent terminology which is capable of expressing it. To give perspective, this terminology would have to incorporate a classification that would be able to convey both the old and new concepts as to the nature and source of the UFO and yet still retain a level of simplicity so as to be comprehensible. It is submitted that the vocabulary of "parallelism" achieves this. It should, however, never be forgotten that the eventual solution may lie in several of the following, as opposed to any one of them if, indeed, it lies in any. This is because the phenomenon may be composed of different sources and different natures.

### Category 1: "True Parallelism and Pseudo-parallelism"

The basis of "true parallelism" is that it postulates that the natural environment or source of the UFO is a reality other than our own, but which is parallel to it in both time and space, and recent scientific theory about the Black Holes may have given added impetus to this concept. Parallelism further implies a parallel world and thus a parallel technology, so parallelists tend to have to commit themselves to the acceptance of UFOs as controlled craft which become visible and even solid – but not necessarily so – when bridged into our reality. It thus differs from the old "nuts and bolts" (or extraterrestrial) theory in postulating a different source for the UFO but not necessarily an altogether different nature; parallelists would have to agree that UFOs can be solid craft but they would say that their solidity is a variable state to us because so is their reality.

The basis of – what I have termed – "pseudo-parallelism" is that it postulates that the natural environment or source of the UFO differs dimensionally from our own, but in space only and not time. It is this single dimensional difference alone which distinguishes it from true parallelism, since pseudo-parallelism also implies the concept of a world and a technology and, therefore, of the UFO as a controlled craft. Pseudo-parallelism is a rather more difficult idea to comprehend since it postulates the source as a world co-existing with us but yet removed from us only by the single dimension of space. The nature and the reality of the phenomenon postulated by the concept of pseudo-parallelism is unclear and may differ a little here from true parallelism.

It is fundamental to both true parallelism and pseudo-parallelism that the phenomena co-exist with us. All forms of parallelism are based on a rejection of the extraterrestrial thesis or of the idea of visitation from deep space, and of the categorization of the phenomenon as a purely physical one. The essence of true parallelism is the idea of bridging the realities across the dimensions of time and space; the essence of pseudo-parallelism is the idea of locking into our dimension of space. There is also the suspicion with all forms of parallelism – and especially with Category 2 below – that the phenomena appear more frequently to certain people, at certain times and in certain places.

### Category 2: "Inner Space Parallelism and Inner Space Pseudo-parallelism"

All forms of – what I have termed – "inner space parallelism" reject the nature of the UFO as being a craft and so postulate that the UFO as such has no natural environment and that its source may just as equally be some great, undefined intelligence as a populated parallel world. In short, UFOs are not what they appear to be, and are not the manufactured products of the technology of another civilization. They are merely temporary transmogrifications or manifestations. "Inner space parallelism" proposes that the source of the UFO transmogrification or manifestation exists parallel to our reality in both time and space, whilst "inner space pseudo-parallelism" proposes that the source exists parallel to us in space only. Both further propose that the phenomenon is intelligently created and that its nature can achieve solidity.

Inner space parallelism and pseudo-parallelism are in many ways the world of symbols and false images. They are the world of deception too. All is not as it seems and so there is much more latitude in this category for religious and spiritual interpretation. The UFO is a symbol summoned up for some hidden purpose. There is a kaleidoscope of shifting visions, and the apparent nature of the

phenomenon is in no way an indication of its source. Moreover, the nature of the phenomenon may change. Inner space as a concept is nothing so crude as a hollow earth. It is the refuge of what is to us dematerialized matter and represents a subtle range of frequencies, vibrations and energy matrices which are intelligently used to manipulate matter within and beyond the limited range of our perceptions. John Keel is an example of an inner space parallelist and has postulated that the UFO phenomenon is the manipulation of energy along the electromagnetic spectrum.

Although parapsychology and the psychic phenomena have much relevance to all forms of parallelism, they probably receive greatest prominence in the theories of the inner space parallelists.

### Category 3: "Extraterrestrial, Terrestrial, and Hybrid Non-parallelism"

This is in many ways a residual category but it can be subdivided to taste.

(i) **"Extraterrestrial non-parallelism"** is perhaps a self-evident or tautological term. Extraterrestrial implies non-parallel. This term covers though all extraterrestrial theories whether they postulate the source as sharing our dimensions of time and space, or as differing from our dimensions of both time and space or of space alone. It covers these extraterrestrial theories whether they postulate UFOs as craft or as transmogrifications or manifestations of some kind. A theory postulating the source as extraterrestrial and differing from our dimensions of both time and space, and which further postulates the nature as transmogrification, is, then, in no sense a parallelist one. It is exiled to this third residual category because it lacks the essential element of co-existence which is common to all forms of parallelism.

(ii) **"Terrestrial non-parallelism"** covers all theories which postulate that UFOs emanate from some unknown region on earth. These theories suggest that UFOs are craft and that their source shares our dimensions of time and space; in short, that the UFO actually co-exists with us here in all of our dimensions. Although, however, the element of co-existence is present in these theories, they are still in no sense parallel. The co-existence is too complete. Parallelism requires the co-existence to be removed from us by at least one dimension.

(iii) **"Hybrid non-parallelism"** covers any hybrid theory in which it is postulated that the source is different from the nature of the phenomenon. For example, a physical phenomenon using the psychic phenomena to deceive us, such as a source sharing our dimensions of time and space but which utilizes or projects transmogrifications which we call the UFO. Here there is a conflict between nature and source; the nature of the phenomenon in the example above suggests inner space parallelism, but the source is non-parallel. It is proposed that, where theories postulate such a conflict, the theory is classified by looking at the postulated source so that the example given above is one of non-parallelism (hybrid non-

*(Continued on page 27)*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# UFO LANDING AND REPAIR BY CREW

## Part II Further details of the New Berlin landing report of 1964

*Ted Bloecher*

THE first part of this report of the investigation into the events stated to have been observed at New Berlin, New York, on November 25, 1964, dealt with the remarkable account given by the witness (known by the pseudonym "Mrs. M. Merryweather") of the landing of two UFOs, and of ground activities by the occupants which could well answer the description "repair work."

After my first hearing of the account I posed a number of questions in questionnaires that I sent to Mrs. Merryweather, which she kindly filled out.

**General questions, with witness's answers**

**Question: 1:** When was the house built where the sighting took place?

**Answer:** *About 1945.*

**Q 2:** Was the noise of the object different from that of a helicopter? Louder, softer?

**A:** *Yes, softer, no whap-whap! Just a low hum.*

**Q 3:** Did you observe the object through binocs while it was still airborne, before it landed on the hilltop?

**A:** *No.*

**Q 4:** On tape, you describe the men as having five fingers. Could you see five fingers?

**A:** *I'm not positive. They did not have a peculiar way of handling tools or gesturing – nearly sure they did have five fingers (hands didn't look odd to me).*

**Q 5:** Where and with whom did you have Thanksgiving dinner that year? Was Dick there?

**A:** *Both families. Yes – held after Thanksgiving was past!.*

**Q 6:** Where and when did you go to college? What was your major?

**A:** *Ithaca College, Fall 1962 – Spring, 1964. Music.*

**Q 7:** How many pairs of binoculars were at the house at this time? Could you have used a pair stronger than five-power?

**A:** *One [pair only]. No.*

**Q 8:** How did you know the figures were larger than normal? Were there any reference points (bushes, fence posts, etc.) that could be used for reference?

**A:** *The bushes down the hill were about 5 feet tall and "men" were 1½ – 2' taller. The men "cutting cable" were close to these.*

**Q 9:** How wide were the holes in the ground? Did they taper?

**A:** *About 14" across, about 18" deep. Yes [they did taper].*

**Q10:** You said several were as deep as 13 inches. What were the shallowest?

**A:** *And deeper. About 4" [the shallowest].*

**Q11:** About how far apart were the two sets of landing marks?

**A:** *40 – 50 feet.*

**Q12:** About how far downhill from the lower object's landing marks was the cable you found?

**A:** *50 – 60 ft.*

**Q13:** When did Dick go up on the hill with you? Did anyone else go?

**A:** *The day after returning from hunting, the Monday after the sighting. No [no-one else].*

**Q14:** Did Dick see the holes? Did anyone else see them?

**A:** *Yes, but no-one else that I know of.*

**Q15:** To approximately how many people have you described this incident over the nine-year interval? Any peculiar reactions? Repercussions?

**A:** *About 10 people. Peculiar reactions? Yes, but that's another story! Repercussions? Yes, you and Dr. Schwarz! Ha Ha!*

**Q16:** Have I overlooked any important questions that may have occurred to you since our interview? If so, please itemize.

**A:** *Yes. These are as follows:*

a. The English Springer did go outside shortly after the sighting and seemed herself. She seemed to have no ill effects from her apparent fright.

b. Drawing for sketch has hilltop too close.

c. Several times (I) observed something being passed along to the men under the object working on the "power source" (?), or "motor."

d. Drawing of arrangement (approximate) of men.

e. Tool boxes about 3 or 4 feet long by 1 ft or so.

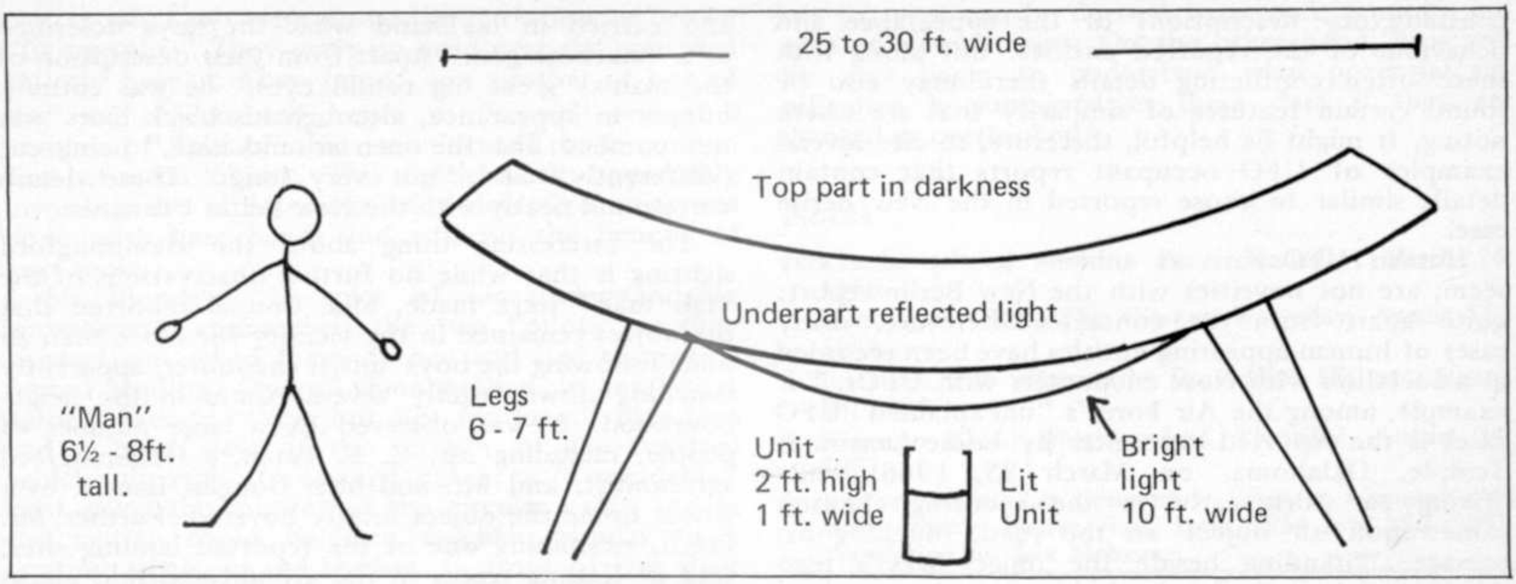
f. (There) was a circular path "worn"— hay stubble mashed down by walking around an object.

g. I did see "men" come and go around object, while working.

Signed: "M. Merryweather"
Date: August 17, 1973

**Secondary list of questions regarding object and its size**

1. At "A" please sketch in figure, comparing with height of object.




**Above and below right: Copies of Mrs. Merryweather's sketches which accompanied her answers to the questionnaire**

*Stick figure*! (This was done and included in drawing—TB.)

2. Can you estimate the width of the object?
25 to 30 ft.

3. Can you estimate the length of the "legs?"
6 to 7 feet.

4. Were the legs light or dark? Did they taper, as in sketch?
Light, and tapered.

5. Can you estimate the size of the light underneath?
About 10 ft. wide.

6. Was the light comparable in size to "3 full moons" (as on tape) or was the entire lighted underside that size?
The light directly under the object was that size — between the legs.

7. Can you sketch a line across the object indicating where light and shadow met? Did line arc upward or downward in centre?
(See drawing, separage page—TB.) Downward.

8. Can you estimate the size of the unit that was removed?
2' high and 1' wide.

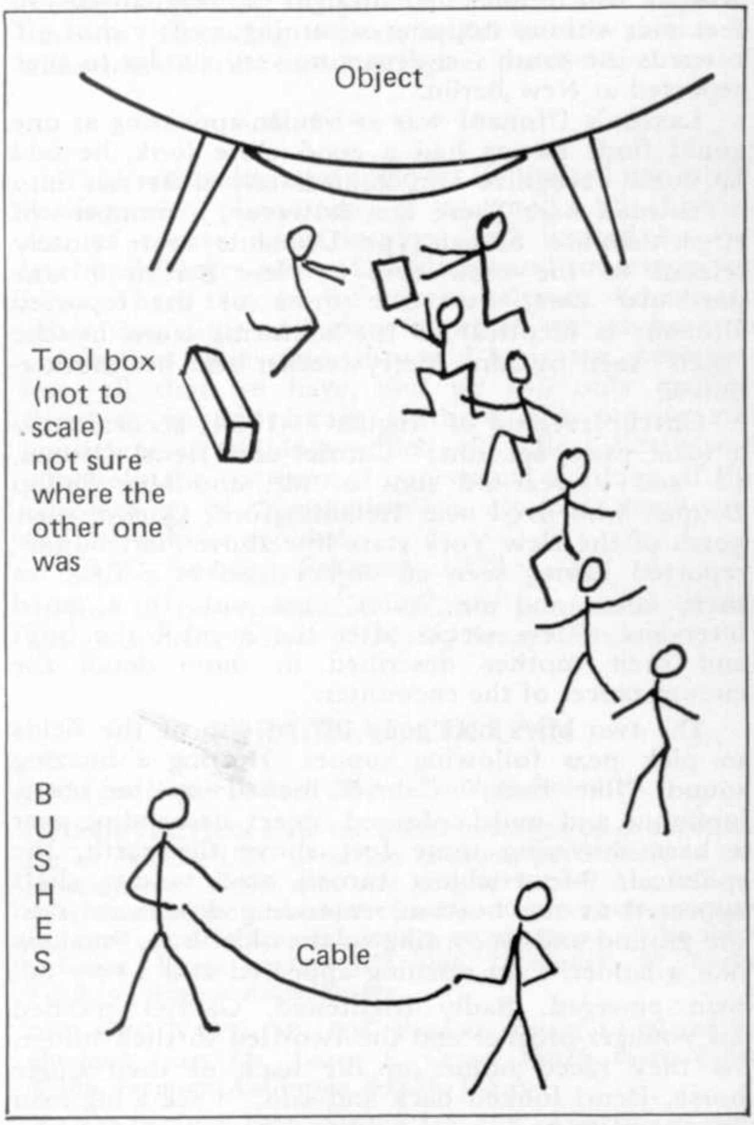
9. Was this unit luminous, or lit by the reflected illumination of the light?
Luminous on top — not on bottom. (See drawing.) Very intense light from object.

10. Can you estimate the distance from the ground to the underpart of the object (or light)?
4 — 5 ft.

11. What positions did the "men" assume under the object as they worked on the unit?
Sitting to replace and half lying down to remove, leaning on elbow and kneeling.

12. Was the ground around the area illuminated by the light? How far?
Some — perhaps 40 ft.

Signed: "M. Merryweather"
Date: August 17, 1973




**Comparative Commentary**

Among the ambiguities of the UFO-occupant related reports are the wildly varying and often

contradictory descriptions of the appearance and behaviour of the reported entities. But along with these often conflicting details there may also be found certain features of similarity that are worth noting. It might be helpful, therefore, to cite several examples of UFO occupant reports that contain details similar to those reported in the New Berlin case.

Human UFOnauts, as unlikely as the idea may seem, are not novelties with the New Berlin report: quite apart from the contactee literature, many cases of human-appearing entities have been recorded in association with close encounters with UFOs. For example, among the Air Force's "unexplained" UFO cases is the reported encounter by Eddie Laxson at Temple, Oklahoma, on March 23, 1966; while driving to work early in the morning, Laxson came upon an object on the road, blocking his passage. "Standing beside the object was a man dressed in a suit similar to clothes worn by members of the Air Force, Laxson said. The man wore a cap with the bill turned up."[1] As Laxson got out of his car to check, the "pilot" climbed aboard the vehicle which ascended straight up for about 50 feet and, without stopping or turning, swiftly shot off towards the south – a departure very similar to that reported at New Berlin.

Laxson's Ufonaut was as human-appearing as one could find: having had a good close look, he said he could recognize him immediately if he ran into a crowded bar. There are, however, a number of larger-than-life human-type Ufonauts more closely related to the crew seen in New Berlin; in one particular case, even the dress of the reported Ufonaut is identical to the uniforms worn by the "men" seen by Mrs. Merryweather and her mother-in-law.

On the evening of August 7, 1954, according to a local press account,[2] Gabriel and Henri Coupal, 13- and 11-year-old sons of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Coupal, who lived near Hemmingford, Quebec (just north of the New York state line above Plattsburgh), reported having seen an object land in a field on their farm, and its "pilot" get out. In a taped interview a few weeks after the event,[3] the boys and their mother described in more detail the circumstances of the encounter.

The two boys had gone off to one of the fields to pick peas following supper. Hearing a buzzing sound "like bees," Gabriel looked up to see a luminous and multi-coloured object descending near a barn; hovering some feet above the earth, the spherical, 9-foot object turned black and a shaft appeared at the bottom, extending downward into the ground and, according to the older boy, "making like a ladder." An opening appeared and a very tall man emerged. Badly frightened, Gabriel grabbed his younger brother and the two fled to their house. As they raced home on the back of their single horse, Henri looked back and said, "I see a big man coming after us."

According to notes made from the taped interview, the boys described the "man" as being seven or eight feet tall and dressed in a skin-tight, black rubber suit, except for the head. He was well-built and carried in his hand what the boys described as a "machine gun." Apart from their description of the man's "great big round eyes," he was entirely human in appearance, although his black hair "was not combed like the men around here," being cut "differently" and "not very long." These details correspond neatly with the New Berlin Ufonauts.

The interesting thing about the Hemmingford sighting is that while no further observations of the "tall man" were made, Mrs. Coupal reported that the object remained in the vicinity for more than an hour following the boys' initial encounter, apparently touching down briefly several times in the neighbourhood. It was observed by a large number of people, including Mr. C. E. Petch, a Hemmingford agronomist, and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Laurie, over whose home the object briefly hovered. Further, Mr. Petch, examining one of the reported landing sites, told of finding traces in the ground and skid marks in the grass.

Regarding the specific activity of the New Berlin Ufonauts – that is, the lengthy repair of a particular unit believed by the witness to be some kind of "power source" – an examination of the UFO occupant literature so far fails to disclose a reference in which similar activities have been reported in such detail. (Perhaps a reader of this report can provide an appropriate example.) There are numerous reports of observations, however, in which the reported Ufonauts appeared to be engaged in some general or unspecified kind of "work" on or near an unidentified object.

Near Joyceville, Ontario, for example, a Toronto resident named Stanley Moxon was reported to have observed two small, white-clad "men" near a landed object while he was driving in the area on the night of August 23, 1967. The Ufonauts "seemed to be at work around their machine," press accounts relate.[4] While Moxon was manoeuvring his car so that he could throw his headlights on the scene, the little men ceased their "work" and quickly entered the object, which then ascended at high velocity. If their "work" was mechanical repair of the type reported at New Berlin, the press accounts fail to specify it.

One early UFO case, which must be termed a "contact" type of encounter (since two-way communication, while brief, did occur), is described by the French ufologist Jimmy Guieu in his book, *Les Soucoupes Volantes viennent d'un autre Monde* ("Flying Saucers come from another World").[5]

On the night of July 23 (or July 24), 1950, M. Claude Blondeau, of Guyancourt, France (about 20 kilometers from Paris), encountered two UFO pilots who emerged from their two respective UFOs. M. Blondeau, the proprietor of a small cafe near the Guyancourt Airport, was taking some air before retiring at about 11.00 p.m. Hearing a slight noise "like the wind," he turned and saw two greyish discs hovering just above the ground at a distance of about one hundred meters. Each object had a row of rectangular "portholes" encircling the circumference and, as he watched, a thick, oval door or hatch opened in the bottom of each machine.

From each hatch emerged a "man" about 1.7

metres tall; both were dressed in dark blue or brown "flying suits." They wore no head gear and appeared entirely human. They joined one another at one of the two objects and began to "repair" one of a number of "plates" that were located on the underpart of each object. This repair work, apparently involving the replacement of a defective unit, was done with bare hands and without the benefit of any tools.

M. Blondeau, in spite of his understandable nervousness, approached the two "pilots" as they worked and asked them if they had had to make a forced landing. One of them replied, in somewhat halting French, "Yes, but not for long." Blondeau had a brief view of the interior of the repaired vehicle through its opened hatch: a "formidable" light filled the interior of the circular cabin and in the center could be seen a chair, similar to a dentist's chair, in red leather. In front of this chair was something like a radio transmitter upon which were a number of buttons; on a post was what seemed to be a large, oval "steering wheel" with projecting handles at opposite sides. Other apparatus could be seen on "blocks" or "panels" around the "control chair."

Blondeau asked several more questions regarding the purpose of all the buttons he could see on the control panels. The response was curt: "Energy!" With no further explanations, the two "pilots" re-entered their respective machines, took their places and closed the hatches from the inside. The "portholes" became luminous and within seconds the two discs tilted up on end, from their horizontal inclinations, and shot straight up at very high accelerations. As they ascended, Blondeau again heard the wind-like noise, but felt no breeze. The entire episode lasted no more than two minutes.

* * * * * *

It might be fairly asked if the details mentioned in the above cases that correspond to those in the New Berlin report could have been "borrowed" in order to enhance the credibility of the latter case, or for some other reason. This is not at all likely, as this reporter is concerned. Neither the Guyancourt nor the Hemmingford case has been reported in detail in any of the available UFO literature in this country. It is improbable that Mrs. Merryweather would have had access to these particular details, even if she was familiar with the UFO literature. (She is not.) Furthermore, it makes little sense to select only isolated details from certain cases as supportive data for an allegedly fabricated report: each case is quite distinctly different in its overall circumstances and the variations are actually more notable than the comparisons. Most important, however, based upon my own familiarity with the primary witness in the New Berlin case, it is simply not within her character or disposition to have "borrowed" isolated details from other reports to use as a basis for creating a false story of her own.

The significance (if any) of comparing certain details from the above references to similar features in the New Berlin case remains uncertain. No clear-cut patterns can be derived from such tenuous and isolated comparisons. On the other hand, how will we ever begin to understand what potential significance is contained in these data if they are ignored or overlooked?

## Notes


1 Lawton (Okla.) *Morning Press,* Thursday, March 24, 1966.

2 Huntington (P.Q.) *The Gleaner,* Wedesday, August 18, 1954.

3 Interview with witnesses by Dr. Adolph Dittmar, August 28, 1954.

4 Kingston (Ont.) Whig-Standard, Thursday, August 24, 1967.

5 Jimmy Guieu: *Les Soucoupes Volantes viennent d'un autre Monde.* Fleuve Noir, Paris, 1954 (pp. 230–233). Translation by Lex Mebane.


**"PARALLELISM"**

*(Continued from page 27)*

parallelism). It is difficult to conceive of a hybrid theory suggesting a parallel source for a phenomenon possessing a non-parallel nature as this is transmogrification and inner space parallelism.

* * * * * *

That rationality and logic are of limited use when dealing with phenomena is accepted. All theories are, of course, both inspired and limited by the level and fringes of our knowledge and contemporary ideas. There may be, of course, relevant dimensions other than time and space of which we can have no conception. But rationality and logic are, nevertheless, all that we have, and we can only employ them to any advantage if there is a precise and consistent terminology which will reflect clearly and concisely the patterns of conceptual thinking. If the terminology of "parallelism" is adopted, much confusion could be avoided.

J.M.C., London, February, 1974

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**Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.**

### From Aimé Michel

Dear Sir,—The present wave (flap) has now lasted for a year. With a few chronological and geographical deviations it is occurring in the majority of the countries of the world. However, in *no case* have we been able to secure the absolute definitive proof that will be capable of convincing everyone. This is very instructive, regarding what one might call the programming of the phenomenon. In effect:

1) All we know about the phenomenon shows that if it "wished" to take place completely unperceived, it could;
2) if therefore it shows itself, this is because it is programmed to be seen;
3) however, bearing in mind the large number of cameras and apparatus of all kinds in the world, it is incompatible with the laws of chance that no irrefutable evidence has ever been obtained. This invisibility simply has to be programmed.

I think therefore that from now on we can take as certain and proven, a programmisation of the phenomenon of such a nature that it shall spread more and more as rumour, but that at the same time it shall elude the human methods of establishing proof, that is to say it eludes science. I think that we can take it as proven that the phenomenon has its own camouflage, of such a kind that it goes on increasing indefinitely without ever entering into the field of perception of the dormant culture, in these eyes of which it will continue not to exist.

Yours sincerely,
**Aime Michel**
Alpes de Haute Provence, France

### Pas de 'PANIC'

Dear Sir,—J.C. Dufour is to be commended on his painstaking research (FSR Vol.20, No.1) into "The birthplaces of prominent people in relation to Bavic," but if, as he says he will, he continues working on 'What's my Line?" he must expect to be challenged.

Surely, to reach any meaningful conclusion, a comparative celebrity count must compensate for differences in totals of the general populations of these samples

Thus I commend to him the PANIC Line — Paris to Nice — and I'll bet him a New Franc to any old one he might still possess, that it will yield more well known Hims, ancient and modern, than BAVIC. And since he is interested in a possible continuation of Bavic to the S.W., see what happens when PANIC is plotted to the South. It passes through Ajaccio, Corsica, and we all know who was born *there.*

Yours sincerely,
**M. Sweetman, Eng. Lt. R.N. (Rtd.)**
Elmside,
Fernleigh Road,
Plymouth PL3 5AN
August 3, 1974.

*[We certainly know all about the impact of the "Him, ancient" who was born at Ajaccio. What few readers will know — and, I am sure, that includes Lieut. Sweetman — is that our correspondent's choice of his PANIC line (a clever play on the words of the title of the series of 39 French Radio programmes) was indeed a remarkable one. For PANIC runs slap through the birthplace, in a little village perched high up in the Department of the Basses Alpes of a certain "Him, modern," namely the discoverer of BAVIC, Aimé Michel! I know the place well, and its position on the map, so I can vouch for it.*

*Oh — and, by the way, I have an uneasy feeling that Monsieur J-C Dufour himself is more than closely associated with Ajaccio: sheer coincidence, all this, I am sure, unless some "one" is playing a little game.*

*Our thanks to Lieut. Sweetman for an engaging letter. As for his well-meant quibble, I've done my best to sort that out in a little piece elsewhere in this issue.—EDITOR].*

### The Yorba Linda photograph (FSR Special Issue No. 5)

Dear Sir,—The author states that the object does not conform to any UFO category. May I suggest that it bears a resemblance to the object in the coloured painting by Alberto Francisco do Carmo (FSR Vol.19, No.6, "Abduction at Bebedouro") sketched below (Fig.1). If the "ramrods" were extended as in Fig.2, they could resemble the "antennae" or tripod legs of the Yorba Linda photograph. The colour of the two objects was similar also.

Yours faithfully,
**Gay Mosley**
12 Colinette Road,
Putney,
London, SW15 6QQ
June 20, 1974.

**Fig. 1**
**Original from Bebedouro**

**Fig. 2**
**"Ramrods" extended upwards**

**Fig. 3**
**Object turned upside down - the Yorba Linda UFO?**

**Brazilian metal from UFO, and magnesium crystals**

Dear Sir,—I am sure some of your readers will have been interested in the magnesium crystal from the Amazon area of Brazil, which was sent to Professor Jacques Bergier and is mentioned in his book "The Eternal Man" (p. 169).

In 1957 at Ubatuba, Brazil, a UFO exploded scattering small fragments of metal along the beach. Some of these were collected, analysed and were found to contain pure magnesium. Further research was conducted on them in 1970 by two metallurgists for APRO, in America.

Wishing to ascertain whether these two magnesium samples were in any way identical, I wrote to both Prof. Bergier and APRO, asking for a copy of the analysts' reports. Below is a translation of the reply I received from Prof. Bergier:

"1) With reference to the crystals found in Brazil, I am unable to give you the complete analysis as it is an official document. What I can tell you, however, is that while chemically it is a magnesium carbonate, physically it has a crystalline form at present completely unknown, and has amazing properties in the transmission of infra-red light.

2) As for the extra-pure magnesium found on the beach in Brazil, its analysis corresponds so exactly with the analysis of magnesium used in photographic flash lamps, no doubt this is what it is.

3) There are no such things as UFOs, a fact that intelligent adults should accept."

I received no reply at all from APRO.

With all due respect to Prof. Bergier, his dismissal of the Ubatuba analysis as photographic flash magnesium (para. 2) is nonsense. The meagre information given on this sample in Kettlekamp's book "Investigating UFOs" (p.37-39) shows it to be of a very special and unusual crystalline structure. It is also of a form unknown at present.

I am sure readers will be amused by para. 3 in the letter, as it contradicts the Introduction to the book "The Eternal Man" and also because Prof. Bergier is the author of a book on extraterrestrial civilizations!

The worrying aspect of this small investigation is the apparent "conspiracy of silence," when reports become "official documents," and when inquiries are not answered. Even the information provided appears to be diluted. Just what is going on?

Yours faithfully,
**Derek A. Allan**
Magpie Cottage,
Christmas Common,
Nr. Watlington,
Oxon OX9 5HR
August 22nd, 1974

*[Jacques Bergier's scepticism on all matters relating to our subject is well known*—EDITOR]

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# ANOTHER CAT OUT OF THE BAG?

## *Gordon Creighton*

As we all know, the Russian Academy of Sciences do not believe in UFOs. For, on February 29, 1968, they joined hands with Dr. Condon and announced to the world, in a statement signed jointly by the President of the Astronomical Council of the Academy and by the President of the Astronomical and Geodesic Society of the USSR, that no Soviet scientist, and no member of the Soviet armed forces, had ever seen a UFO, that such things did not exist, and that talk of them was "anti-scientific nonsense."

Such being the case, it is distinctly odd to find an interesting UFO-related report in the Soviet Academy of Sciences' own popular-scientific journal, *Khimia i Zhizn' (Chemistry and Life)* No. 5 (May 1974).

The item appears in an article reporting the views of some of the Soviet and foreign astronomers who participated in a *Symposium on Extraterrestrial Civilizations,* which was held during the recent Congress held in Baku, USSR, by the International Academy of Astronautics.

The account of the views of the astronomers (given in replies to questions from representatives of *Khimia i Zhizn'*) contains nothing that is new or would be of much interest to readers and it is far too long for reproduction here. I will therefore simply translate the UFO report.

The discussion had been dealing with the question of how one might make contact with extraterrestrial civilizations and whether we were likely ever to meet them?

The American astronomer K. Erike had just remarked that if the beings were very much ahead of us technologically they might get here, but that if they came from very far (saw from between 100 and 200 light-years) then contact between us would be likely to remain at the level of signal-communication only.

I. Kotnik, a Yugoslavian engineer, then made the following interesting statement:

"But maybe contact has already occurred, and beings from other planets are already watching us? Now, look...I myself was a witness of such a happening in Zagreb, not long ago.

"Suddenly the lights went out on several streets of the city...I was in the studio of the radio-station just at that moment, giving my regular weekly programme about extraterrestrial civilizations. When the lights started going out all over the place, I said, into the microphone: 'Flying saucers have got nothing to do with this.'

"Then a listener telephoned to the studio, and suggested that I go down and try to start up my car. And, do you know, the car wouldn't move... and not only *my* car either...

"We were told at the Power Plant that all their equipment there was functioning perfectly, and yet despite that, we were six whole hours without electricity. The people of Zagreb were quite convinced that 'saucers' were flying around overhead.

"Well, there's an inexplicable story for you..."

One would have expected that, after the long theoretical discussion about the possibilities of comm-

unicating with beings from elsewhere, this astonishing statement from the Yugoslavian delegate would have elicited at least some comment from somebody, but, from the text as given in *Khimia i Zhizn'* it is clear that everybody is anxious to give the subject a wide berth. So they all skate away from it rapidly, escaping from the particular to the general, and from the present back into the safety of the past, and they move at once to the question of whether extra-terrestrials could possibly ever have visited the Earth in bygone days.

This is a technique with which we are quite familiar, for we encounter it daily. Provided that the nettle is not grasped, it is entirely permissible to skirt around it, to beat about the bush.

We saw an excellent example of this in March 1973, when the British Interplanetary Society, the vast majority of whose members "would never let themselves be found dead" in the vicinity of anyone who accepts the authenticity of UFO landing reports and creature encounters, were prepared to listen to a lecture by Mr. Duncan Lunan, the young Scottish enthusiast who claims that he has found evidence of the presence of an "alien space-probe" inside our Solar System and quite near to the Earth. The "space-probe" is, of course, *unmanned:* "space flotsam from another era", as it was described in a BBC radio interview with Mr. Lunan on March 19, 1973, "an unpiloted craft...launched by the inhabitants of a doomed planet."

There is no doubt about it. These words "doomed" or "unmanned" are the words that cheer. So long as the thing is empty, and comes from a nice, far distance, and so long, of course as its owners are dead anyway, there is nothing much to worry about. All is neat and cosy as before, and we can stick our heads back in the sand.*

But it is certainly a puzzle why the USSR Academy of Sciences should have permitted this Yugoslavian report to get into one of their journals, even into a "popular" one.

Did somebody blunder perhaps? Or has there been a bit of quiet sabotage somewhere among the ranks of the Academicians?

Or was the aim perhaps to show up the Yugoslavian delegate as a fool, as a man who believes in UFOs? (It is understood that in recent years Tito's Yugoslavia has been displaying a degree of nationalism and independence which is quite unacceptable in more northerly latitudes.)

---

* See Charles Bowen's Editorial, in FSR Vol. 19, No.3 (May/June 1973.)

# A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH

**Here are extracts from an item that appeared under the signature of Ian Ridpath in the world's leading scientific journal, *Nature* (Vol.251, No.5474 of October 4, 1974), –**

"AMERICA'S first scientifically-based Center for UFO Studies, established by J. Allen Hynek after a wave of UFO reports across the States last year, is planning to ask the National Science Foundation and NASA for funds in the near future. The Center, a loose affiliation of scientists from a dozen US universities, is currently funded by private donations, but feels that its stock in trade—scientific credibility stands sufficiently high for approaches to be made to establishment bodies like NSF and NASA . . .

"The scientists of the Center are preparing a report on the 1973 UFO wave in which 1,500 cases are listed. The sightings started in the south-eastern states and, in Hynek's words, "spread along the river valleys". When published next spring, the report will be a valuable study of a major UFO event.

"Hynek's work has started a steady shift in public and scientific attitudes to UFOs which are documented in a revealing hour-long TV programme being screened coast-to-coast in December by NBC . .

"Hynek is impressed by the fact that the nature of the phenomenon itself is the one thing that has not changed. 'The typical UFO report today is essentially the same as it was 10 years ago,' he says. Yet he carefully points out that he does not support the idea that UFOs are nuts-and-bolts spacecraft from other worlds: 'There are too many things against it. It seems ridiculous that any intelligence would come from such great distances to do reportedly stupid things like stopping cars and frightening people. And there are far, far too many reports.' "

After a word on the steps the Center can take in the immediate future, the article is concluded with a quotation from Dr. Hynek's book *The UFO Experience:* "When the solution does come it's going to be one hell of a quantum jump."

Which adds up to a big jump forward in respectability for the subject, indeed a major breakthrough.


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# POLAROID PHOTOGRAPH OF UFO OVER BOURNEMOUTH

## *Leslie Harris*

**Our contributor is a member of the Unexplained Phenomena Research Group of Bournemouth, and is Editor of the Group's magazine *Scan****

THE following is a report of an incident that occurred on October 21, 1974, and was reported on the front page of the Bournemouth *Evening Echo* on October 23. With two colleagues I visited the witness at his home the same evening, and gathered the following information.

Gregory Marchant, 21, a fork-lift driver of Highlands Crescent, Kinson, Bournemouth, was in his bedroom (he lives with his parents) on the evening of Monday, October 21. It was 8.45 p.m. when, he states, he caught sight of a moving object through his bedroom window. Realizing that it was no ordinary aircraft, he says, he grabbed his camera, a polaroid Swinger, loaded with an 87 cartridge of black and white film, and ran down stairs and out into the back garden.

Gregory says the object was travelling on a straight course from West to Northeast, somewhat faster than an aircraft. It had no particular shape to the naked eye and had the appearance of a fluorescent light, brilliant white, but green and mauve near the top and orange beneath. The upper portion of the object appeared to be rotating, and its size was half to three quarters of an inch at arm's length. The sky was clear with the moon visible.

By the time Gregory reached the back garden, the object was almost overhead [and, presumably, now appearing much larger—EDITOR]. He states that he pointed his camera at it and snapped a picture. In his haste he had not noticed that a flash bulb was in position, and was rather startled when the flash went off, dazzling him for a moment. When he looked back at the sky, he says the object was no longer to be seen. Altogether it had been visible for about four minutes [although travelling "faster than an aircraft"?—EDITOR]. No sound was heard.

Gregory went back indoors and allowed 31 seconds for development of the polaroid print. When he peeled off the backing, he was amazed, and a little frightened, he adds, to see what he photographed. The print showed a bell-shaped object, with a brilliant rim and an equally brilliant section at the top. At the base of the object was a convex, slightly pointed section. The object was about half an inch wide on the print, and a washing line was also photographed, cutting across a corner of the print, having been illuminated by the unexpected flash.

Mr. Albert Marchant, Gregory's father, was extremely sceptical of the sighting at first, having neither belief nor particular interest in UFOs. However a close examination of the print, together with his son's undoubted sincerity, finally convinced him that his son's claim was genuine, and the next day he took the photograph to the local airport (Hurn), where he was told that no aircraft were in the area at that time. The print was examined by the staff in the control tower, and it created considerable interest and excitement.

After our interview with Gregory and his father we felt that they were telling the truth. The possibility of a hoax seems unlikely although the *Evening Echo* opens its account of the alleged incident with the statement: "A Bournemouth man who claims to have taken a photograph of an unidentified flying object has been accused of a hoax." This, it adds, Gregory Marchant strongly denies. We were shown the back garden, the

clothes line and the camera, and the attitude of the Marchants was at all times open and honest.

In an account of the incident in the *News of the World* of November 3, 1974, Ron McClure, our Group's Public Relations Officer, pointed out the similarity between the object in Gregory's photo and that of the "scout ship" claimed to have been taken by George Adamski in 1952.

**Editor's note:** We asked Mr. Harris, who has conducted a number of investigations for FSR in the past, if he would obtain a print for us. He reported, with disappointment, that he had, surprisingly, been unsuccessful so far, so we feel that until we can examine either the original photograph or a print, this claim should be treated with caution. We have done our best with the enlarged newspaper reproduction to give readers some idea of the kind of object photographed by Greg Marchant.

---

* 5 Grenfell Road, Moordown, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH9 2UD


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# World round-up *of news and comment about recent sightings*

## England

### Uri Geller: A scientific step forward

An article by **Nigel Hawkes**, the Science Correspondent, was published in *The Observer* on October 13, 1974, in which it was revealed that a study of the "abilities" of Uri Geller was to be published in *Nature*. Mr. Hawkes' article appeared under the title *Geller gets Science's Seal of approval.* Here are a few extracts from the article which may interest readers, especially in view of the claims by Dr. Andrija Puharich that Uri Geller's powers come from UFO entities – the main reason why FSR is so interested in Geller:–

"Uri Geller, the young Israeli who claims to possess paranormal powers, will take a major step towards scientific respectability this week when *Nature* publishes the first study of his abilities. [Published 18.10.74–ED.]

"*Nature* is probably the world's foremost scientific journal, and its acceptance of the Uri Geller study, carried out by Dr. Russell Targ and colleagues at Stanford Research Institute in California, will oblige sceptical scientists to take Geller more seriously.

"Papers on extra-sensory perception, psychokinesis and other paranormal phenomena rarely find their way into orthodox scientific journals. *Nature's* acceptance of the SRI paper is thus an unusual event and, perhaps, a milestone in the development of parapsychology.

"The paper to be published this week is a description of a series of tests undertaken by Uri Geller last year. Since then he has been examined in a separate series of tests by three physicists at London University and repeated in front of independent witnesses some of the feats observed at SRI. The physicists involved do not wish to be named, as they also intend to seek publication of their results in the scientific literature.

"Copies of the *Nature* paper are not yet available, but it is expected to include details of four carefully-controlled tests carried out at SRI last year.

"In one of these...neither the experimenter nor Geller knew in advance what the answer should be. This is a scientific technique known as 'double-blind' and is designed to prevent the experimenter unwittingly giving the subject clues and leading him to the right answer. An individual not associated with the experiments came alone into the experimental room and placed an object into a can chosen at random from an array of 10 identical aluminium cans.

"The experimenter and Geller then came into the room and Geller was asked to guess which can contained the object, without touching the cans or the table on which they were placed. In a series of 14 trials, Geller twice refused to guess because he was uncertain, and chose correctly 12 times–finding objects which included steel ball-bearings, a small permanent magnet and a quantity of water in the cans.

"The odds against achieving this level of success by guess-work are one in a million million (1 in $10^{12}$)...

"The SRI trials defy explanation except by assuming large-scale fraud by Geller, the experimenters, and several onlookers, or the possession of paranormal powers by Geller. The fact that *Nature* has accepted the paper for publication, after due process of refereeing by independent scientists, implies that fraud has been discounted. That leaves a good deal to be explained."

## England

### Ministry of Defence interested in Harborne reports

This account which appeared under the headline "Flying Saucer Probe in City" is taken from the *Birmingham Evening Mail* of July 8, 1974,–

A special 'flying saucer' department set up by the Ministry of Defence is examining reports of sightings from Birmingham.

"People living near Harborne Golf Course started seeing the glowing, darting objects in the late evening sky in the middle of last month.

"But checks with weathermen, Birmingham Airport and Birmingham University have failed to establish any reason such as meteorological balloons or aircraft.

"Now Ministry of Defence officials have written to the residents of the Bournevale Park estate confirming that their reports 'are being examined to see if there are any defence implications.'

"Policeman's wife Mrs. Margaret Westwood–she is a former police officer herself–said today: 'One of the sightings was very frightening. It seemed to hover right overhead and then drop suddenly.

" 'The objects are quite silent and glow orange turning to white. Sometimes they leave a red trail.

" 'Through binoculars they seem to be a tubular light.'

"She said more than a dozen people living near their home in Wentworth Way had seen the unidentified flying objects in the last three weeks. Among them are an electrical engineer and a doctor.

"Initially the lights travelled in a south to north direction but following a spell of inactivity during cloudy weather had changed to an east to west direction, said Mrs. Westwood."

Credit: **L.S. Beddard** of Smethwick

## Canada

### The farmer and five UFOs

*The Edmonton Journal* (of Edmonton, Alberta) of September 4, 1974, carried this agency report from Langenburg, Saskatchewan,–

Langenburg, Sask. (CP) – "RCMP constable Ron Morier says he doesn't think a district farmer is trying to pull a hoax with his claim of seeing saucer-shaped objects hovering about a foot over a slough near his rapeseed field six miles north of here.

"Edwin Fuhr, 36, claims five 'stainless steel' objects stayed for 15 minutes before leaving. He says there were depressions in the foot-high grass about 11 feet in diameter where they had been.

"Constable Morier visited the farm Monday in this community 120 miles northeast of Regina for a first-hand look.

" 'They took me out to where they'd seen these things in the grass. I saw the rings . . .

" 'Something was there and I doubt it was a hoax. There's no indication anything had been wheeled in or out and Mr. Fuhr seemed genuinely scared.'

"Constable Morier took photographs and measurements and sent his information to the National Research Council in Ottawa.

" 'Some farmers are afraid to work their fields,' the constable said. 'At least that's what I hear on coffee row.'

"Mr. Fuhr says he got down from his swather and moved to within 15 feet of the objects.

" 'All of a sudden I noticed the grass was moving . . . turning near this thing. I just watched it for about two minutes and then noticed that the whole thing was turning.

" 'I backed up slow. I wasn't going to turn my back on the thing. When I got back to the swather, I noticed there were another four to the left of me, all revolving, I just froze on the seat and didn't move.

" 'I was terrified. I froze. I couldn't do anything.

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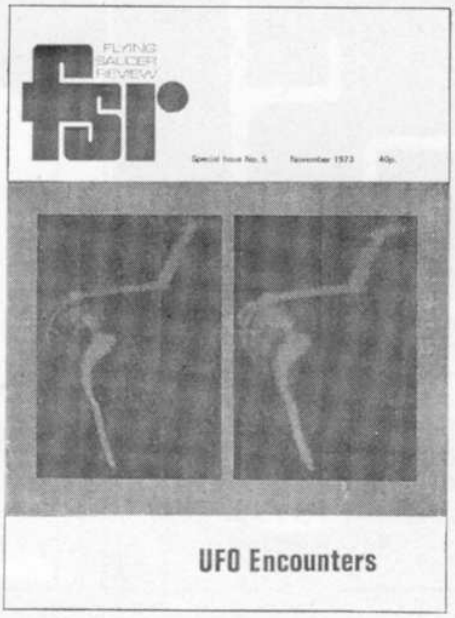


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**Artwork by Eileen Buckle**

" 'Then they took off (after 15 minutes) . . . straight up. There was a grey vapour coming from underneath them, and a strong wind. I had to hang on to my hat and it knocked the rape down.'

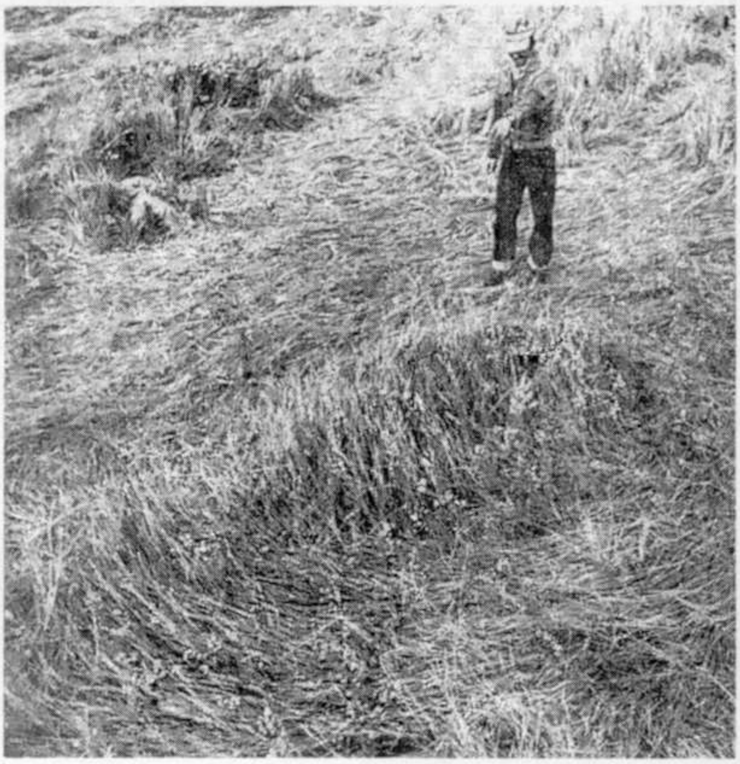
"It took two minutes for the objects to disappear into the clouds and another two minutes for Mr. Fuhr to come down from his swather.

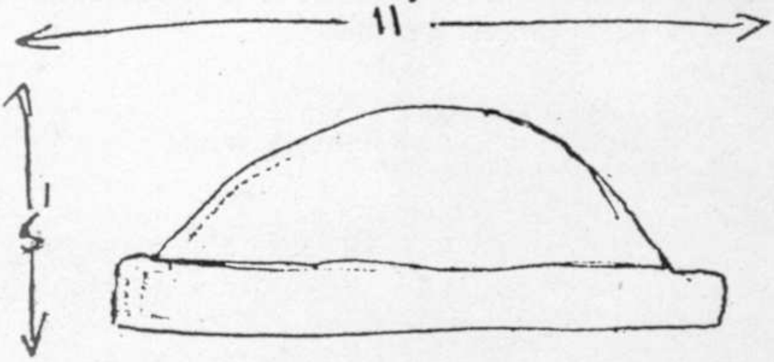
" 'I wanted to be sure they were gone.'

"He then examined the circular depressions left by the objects.

" 'I felt the grass to see if it was warm. There was nothing you could feel and there wasn't any smell.' "

Credit: **Mrs.M. Junck** of Edmonton, Alberta and **W.K. Allan** of Kelowna, B.C.






**Above right: Edwin Fuhr shows where one of the objects hovered over his field**
**Above left: Fuhr's drawing of how the objects appeared on taking off**
**Below right: Fuhr's drawing of the first object seen**

### Italy

**An impressive early sighting**

**Mrs. Mary Boyd** of Firenze (Florence) has kindly sent us the following interesting material, which she translated from the new book *UFO In Italia (UFOs In Italy),* published this year by Corrado Tedeschi of Florence and compiled by a team of five members of the local research group S.U.F. (Sezione Ufologica Forentina).

This incident occurred on an unspecified day at the end of October 1949, at Montecarotto, Ancona, on the central part of the Adriatic Coast of eastern Italy.

"A local landowner named Carotti had just constructed a 'hide' from which to shoot birds. The spot chosen was in a valley called 'The Great Oaks,' and the oak trees, of imposing size, were centuries old.

"On the morning in question, Carotti arrived at the 'hide' (a hut) at about six o'clock, accompanied by his nine-year-old son Fernando.

"It was the start of the migrating season for thrushes, so there were hopes of securing a full bag of game. However, on this day something very different from their accustomed feathered prey was to rivet their attention and interest.

"Shortly after their arrival, as they sat there in silence awaiting their birds, they heard a light rustling noise that was not at all like the usual sound of fluttering wings. Looking up, they beheld, in amazement verging on terror, a very strange, enormous 'thing' passing across the sky not more than 200 metres or so from them.

"It was a cigar-shaped object. Carotti judged it to be about 7 or 8 metres long, with a diameter of about 2½ metres. It was flying rapidly towards Senigallia, on a NNE course. The extraordinary aerial craft was emerald-green in colour and was followed by a trail, twice its own length, of a bluish-violet colour which, as they watched, changed to an intense clear light. And their fear was added to as they observed that, when the unknown object passed low above the leafy boughs of the row of huge oak trees, the branches of these trees were bent and deflected backwards; some immensely powerful and mysterious force was affecting the trees. The sighting lasted but a few seconds. Then all was silent again in the valley, but father and son were left with an indelible impression of what they had seen.

"Some other men who were also out hunting in the Belvedere area, over near the Adriatic coast, also claimed to have seen a strange, oblong, luminous object, with a trail, pass

over their heads in the direction of the sea.

"There were no reports of this case in the press. The investigators were not able to interview either of the Carottis, as both father and son were now away, working in Germany. However these details of the sighting were secured by them from Signora Dolores Carotti, the wife, residing at Corso Amendola 16, Ancona.

"(From the files of the "Bilancia" UFO Research Group, Ancona, forwarded to the Editor of *Il Giornale de Misteri*, and published in the latter, issue No.25, April 1973)."

**Italy**
**Sighting by Pope Pius XII**

Again, from *UFO In Italia*,—

"Mention has been made quite frequently of this famous episode, which took place on Monday, October 30, 1950. The original sources are news items which appeared in the newspaper *Il Mattino dell' Italia Centrale* of October 14, 15, and 16, 1951.

"His Holiness Pope Pius XII was in the Vatican Gardens. The day was cloudless, and the sun shone from a particularly clear autumn sky.

"Suddenly the Pope heard a mysterious voice nearby, which seemed to be whispering something to him, but for which he could find no explanation, being entirely alone. The voice told him to look up at the Sun. As it were unconsciously, and without the astonishment which would have been the normal human reaction, the Pope obeyed the voice and, raising his eyes, gazed intently at the heavenly body. But he suffered none of the blinding dazzle which would have been natural under such circumstances had he attempted anything so dangerous as looking straight into the Sun. On the contrary, as Pius XII gazed at the brilliant light, he experienced a sensation of extreme pleasure which he himself later defined as 'super-human.' And, as he continued to gaze, the same mysterious voice urged him not to take his eyes off the luminous globe. He therefore kept them fixed upon it. And then he beheld a phenomenon which made a profound impression upon him. For the Sun assumed the appearance of a flaming disc that revolved like a wheel of fire while projecting in all directions beams of light which continually changed colour.

"But this was not the only occasion upon which Pope Pius XII observed this phenomenon. He saw it again three more times, namely on the two immediately following days, October 30 and November 1, and on November 8.

"From the wording of the press-reports it seems that this Pope had also already had some kind of UFO experience before this, but no details are given."

Credit: **Mrs. Mary Boyd** of Firenze.

*[What immediately leaps to mind, as one reads this account of the famous experience of a Pope, is of course the striking resemblance to the "Dance of the Sun" at Fatima in 1917,—* EDITOR.*]*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*1973*

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FSR Case Histories back issues 25p per copy (65 cents US), post paid
Remittance with order to FSR Publications Ltd., P.O. Box 25, Barnet, Herts. EN5 2NR, England



Published by FSR Publications Ltd., P.O. Box 25, Barnet, Herts. EN5 2NR, and printed in Great Britain by Sanderson Design & Print Ltd., 16 Bridge Street, Caversham, Reading, Berks. Tel. Reading (0734) 475224